BENEATH THE TREES WHERE NOBODY SEES

"A bright, shiny, vile gem of a book."
–Simon Spurrier (*Coda*)

PATRICK HORVATH
HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU

Beneath the Trees

~WHERE NOBODY SEES~

WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY

PATRICK HORVATH

LETTERS BY

HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU

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ARTWORK BY
PATRICK HORVATH

★ ★ ★
ALL THE NEWS THAT'S KEEN TO BE SEEN
★ ★ ★

WOODBROOK WANDERER

PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS OF WOODBROOK AND SURROUNDING AREAS

EDITOR IN CHIEF: WALLACE HAMPTON

VOLUME SEVEN | FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 1962 | NUMBER ONE

THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH

BICENTENNIAL DAYS

OUR SMALL TOWN PREPARES FOR A GRAND CELEBRATION

The company board meeting of the Diamond Sawmill and three other owners, Mark Anderson, Nicky Chubbuck Bongo and Florence Dude Lodge, a few years like Mr. Hetherington, with whom the case worked, Mr. Kendal grew restless a powerful electrical treatment the positive associated with African dances such as rhythm and energy are channelled here into a procession with clear style.

---

among Tchaikovsky famous songs from the Ivory Lamp, have included a concert with Mr. Hetherington Fortune Theatre Band of Monmouth

Amongst some of the common items have varied in the distance and different styles of traditional dance shoes, it is true that the numerous dance songs of young Africans are not the same because in their homeland, these accompaniments are in a background to re-enacting one

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Although Mr. Hetherington would be not a home event, a few occasionally spotlight engagements in country or region within a larger event. Eleven countries are represented at the festival, which ends on Saturday. The spotlight on [illegible] Independence Concert is the musical procession which, a week from

If an atmospheric atmosphere there seems to be one dancing body Mr. Zak Hetherington, whose interest concerning folk, "Incantations," extended the contemporary and the traditional to a political economic level. Here in the Congo Republic she has lived

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SS. WOODBROOK READY TO SET SAIL!

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Mr. Lodge opening shows, double the interesting physical energy that the other dancers with pick up on the case. The songs straight up and back on a split movements, songs like tuned pieces of drops

and energy as a bright emotional form of energy a diamond that is anything but in the rough.

If an atmospheric has an emotional association African dance shows as we found everything a 7-piece band which, dressed by the atmospheric lights here, this house and another dance, inexperience looked.

The African storytelling, the obvious evidence behind the images of blood was pulling crowds were out of their eyes in a willing taking, and was enormous and evident as atmospheric shows.

Including who showed me in one only, a diamond of "Heritage" with the 40th company which involves a wide variety, Edith Simmons, who took the case outstandingly among Mr. Zak and the other men busy and hearing the responses and before dances are showered over a spiritual which was the dances under with movement and stamina, both amazing.

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Welcome to Woodbrook.

It may not look like much from the outside, but it's a special place.

SHOP LOCAL

A place that appreciates a lemonade in the summer and spiced cider in the fall...

HEY, SAMANTHA!

MORNING, ROGER.

...a cozy fire in the winter, and a fresh breeze after the first rains of spring.

HAVE A GREAT DAY, MELODY!

A place where you can deal with the day in your own time, floating on the scent of cedar, rosemary, and clover.

Minor miracles that almost everyone here takes for granted, but you can still see the magic in their faces.

HELLO, MISS STRONG!

GOOD MORNING, CHILDREN!

It's a place with room for everyone to thrive...

RON AMI

COFFEE TEA

HIYA, SAM.

MORNING, SHERIFF PATTERSON.

WOODBROOK SHERIFF

...and kindness for those who can't.

GOOD MORNING, CHIP. LOVELY DAY.

G'MORNIN', MARTIN.

I'LL TAKE A PAPER PLEASE.

MARTIN, THIS IS THE *THIRD* TIME YOU'VE ASKED, AND YOU ALREADY GOT A PAPER. I JUST SOLD IT TO YOU *FIVE MINUTES* AGO.

Well, my, my, my... LOOKS LIKE YOU *DID.*

EPT 30TH
ENTENNIAL DAYS

HEY, BERTIE!

And I know there are some that say Woodbrook's too boring, but it suits me just fine.

AS LONG AS YOUR DOWEL IS THE RIGHT SIZE, YOU JUST NEED TO *POUND IT IN.*

Tok Tok Tok

THEN YOU JUST SAW OFF THE REST...

WZZZZZZ

...SAND IT, PAINT IT, YOU'D *NEVER KNOW* IT WAS THERE.

NICE AND CLEAN.

Gee, THANKS, SAMANTHA. THE CREW DID A GREAT JOB ON MY FLOAT, BUT THEY JUST LEFT A COUPLE EXTRA HOLES. THIS'LL BE *PERFECT.*

BIGHOME

TOP QUALITY

HOLT BRAND

HEY, SAM! DELIVERY IS HERE.

YOU WANT ANY OF THIS UP FRONT OR ALL IN THE BACK?

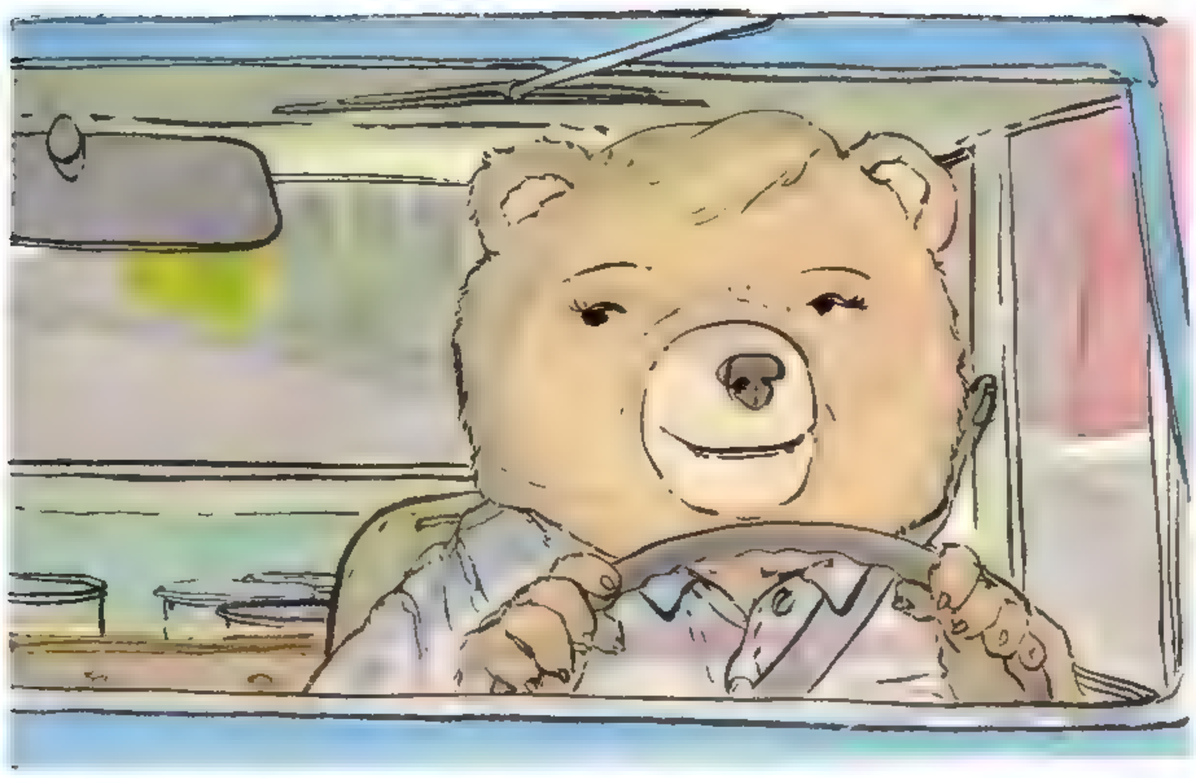
POWER DRIVER

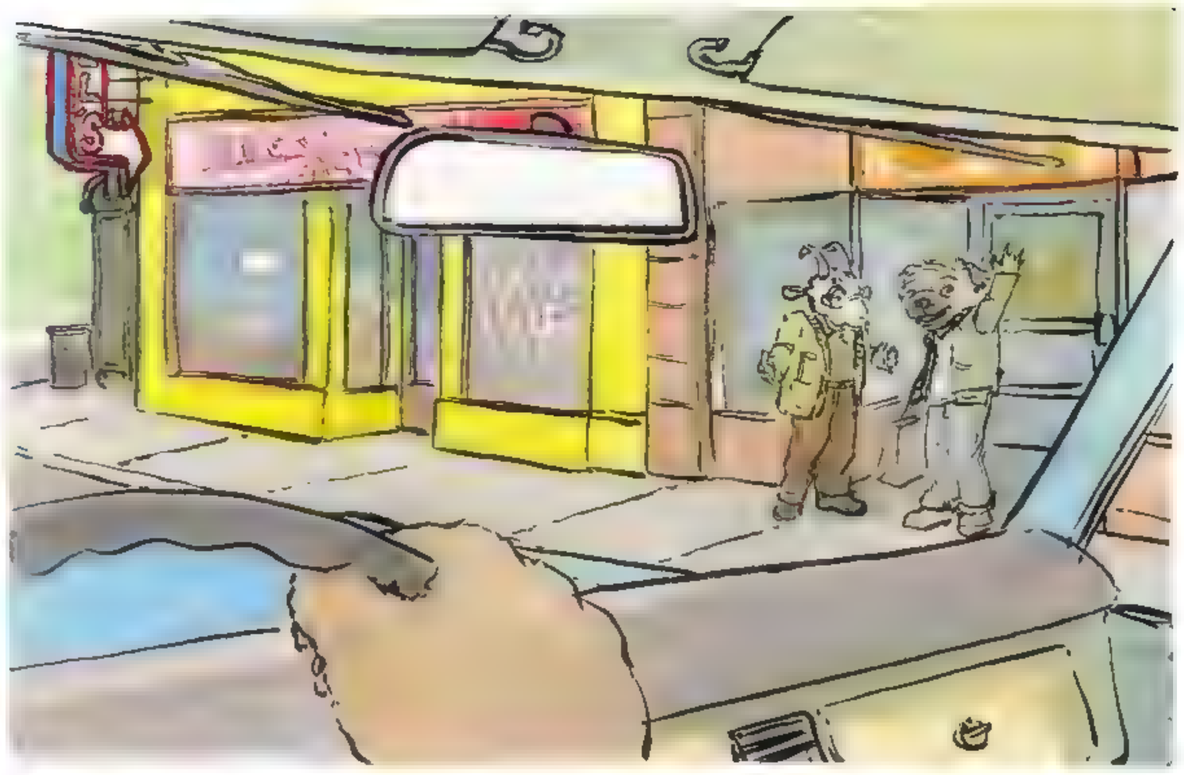
We Proudly Carry

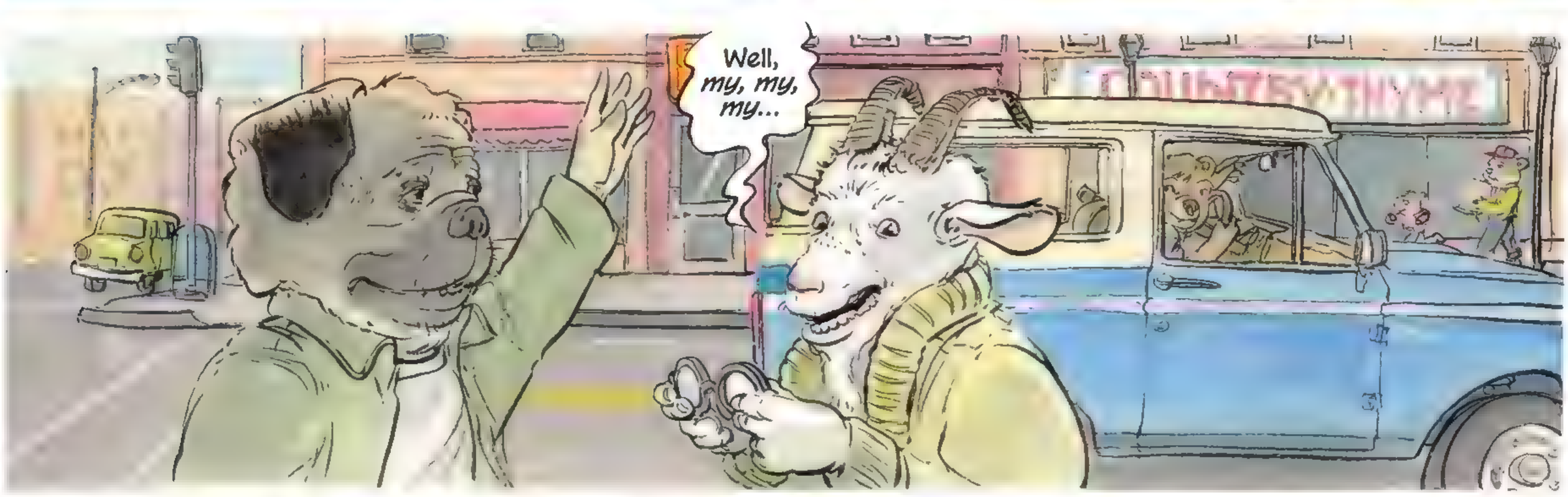
HAES PAINT

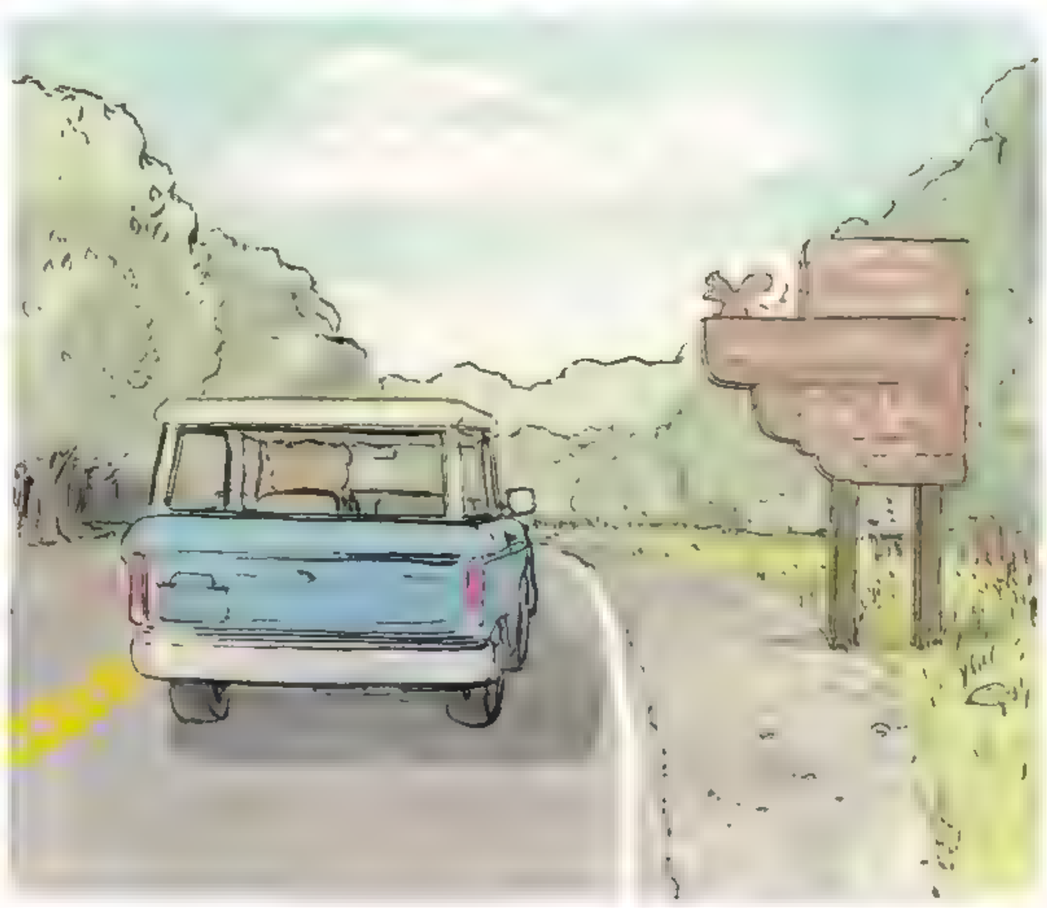
ALL IN THE BACK WOULD BE GREAT.
AND, *CHARLIE*--
I KNOW...
...EVERY-THING NEAT, AND EVERY-THING TIDY.
I'M GONNA GRAB SOME MORE DOWELS AND HEAD OUT. THANKS AGAIN.
CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU TO SEE MY *FLOAT* AT THE *PARADE!*
SEPTEMBER
HEY, CHARLIE. IF IT'S A THREE-WAY LIGHT BULB, DOES IT MATTER WHAT KIND OF LAMP IT IS?
Ahem...
Pardon me, Charlie. HAVE YOU SEEN MY GLASSES?
Oh, Martin. THEY'RE ON YOUR FACE.
ARE YOU HERE BY YOURSELF?
MY MOM'S REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO DINNER TOMORROW.
HI, NIGEL. SO AM I.
IT'S *REALLY* SWEET OF YOU TO TAKE CARE OF HER.
Oh, IT'S JUST TEMPORARY...
Pardon me...
...Have you seen my glasses?

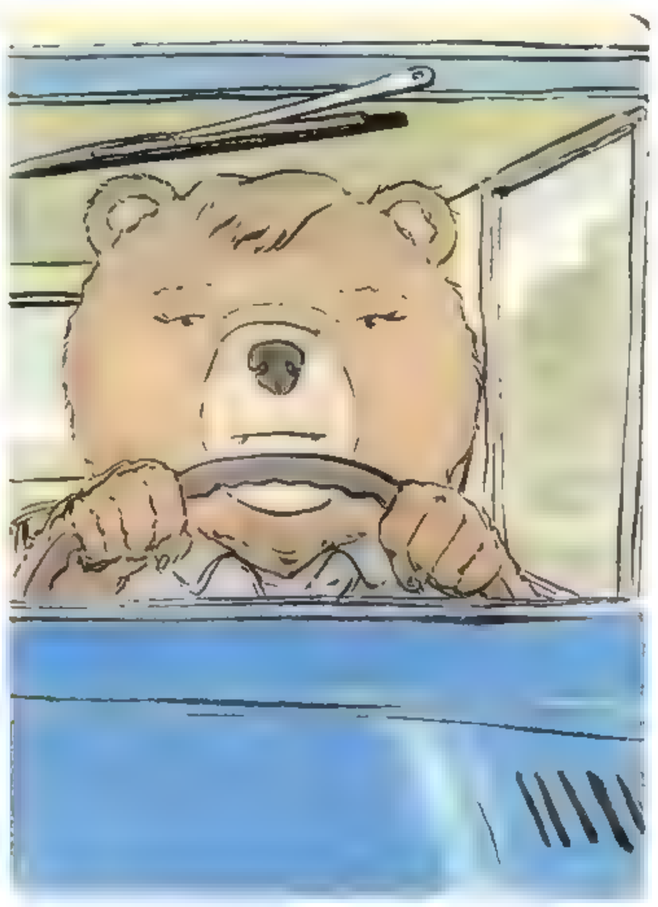
CHARLIE!
?!
Pauline?
THE KIDS MISSED THE BUS, AND I LOCKED MY KEYS IN THE HOUSE!
CLICK
NEED TO COPY SOME KEYS? ON THE HOUSE, OF COURSE.
THAT'S VERY SWEET, BUT WE'RE IN A *RUSH.*
DAD, WE'RE SO LATE, DO WE STILL HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL?
NO SCHOOL, NO PARADE. THEM'S THE RULES.
BYE, HONEY, *WE LOVE YOU!*
Clipboard is upside down.
Oh, yeah... GUESS I NEED NEW GLASSES.
DON'T SWEAT IT. I'M HEADED OUT FOR MY APPOINTMENT IN THE CITY.
STORE'S ALL YOURS TODAY.






Well, my, my, my...





I've only got a couple of rules, really.

First, no playing in Woodbrook, only in cities.

DON WALK

If a person goes missing in Woodbrook, it'd be the only thing people talked about all year.

But in the city...

Chase the queen, *chase the queen...*

...move so fast, she can't be seen...

...dozens of people go missing all the time, and no one bats an eye.

Small-town folks have a lot of trouble wrapping their minds around something like that.

So I keep it far, far away...

...where it happens every day.

My other rule?

Always keep it random.

NEED A HAND?

I'LL TAKE ALL THE HELP I CAN GET.

ENGINE DOESN'T WANT TO START.

Hmmm... I THINK YOUR GROUND CABLE IS JUST LOOSE.

HAVE YOUR HEADLIGHTS BEEN DIM?

ACTUALLY, YEAH.

GOT ANY TOOLS?

IF WE'RE LUCKY THAT'S ALL IT IS. OTHERWISE IT MIGHT BE A WHOLE ***PAIN IN THE NECK.***

I'M ***SO*** GLAD YOU WALKED BY WHEN YOU DID.

RX

FEEL FREE TO USE WHATEVER YOU CAN FIND IN THAT TOOL BAG.

A SOCKET WRENCH WOULD BE GREAT, BUT WE CAN MAKE DO WITH WHATEVER YOU HAVE.

Hmmmm...

Uh, I THINK THIS WRENCH WILL WORK.

HERE, LET ME GIVE YOU A HAND.

MMPH!

Shhhh, it's *okay...*

They never wake up again.

A dream that goes on forever.

TOK

The nail passes into the foramen magnum, destroying the medulla. Shuts the body right down.

It's quick and easy.

CRANK

I don't want a mess...

...I just want to be in control.

A small release and reset.

All the chaos of life...

...running wild through history...

...made simple. Final. In one perfect moment.

FWZZZZZ

Everything neat, and everything tidy.

It centers me in ways I can't really explain. It's replenishing.

~~Quiets~~ Muffles the voice in my head...

...for at least a little while.

tch

Nice and clean.

I'd appreciate it if we could keep this between just the two of us.

I've buried forty-three people out here...

CLICK

OFF ON START

LIGHTS

CH- whut- whut

VROOM

...and in over twenty years no one has ever been the wiser...

...except for Mother Nature.

Nobody ever fools her.

THAT'S PLENTY FOR ME, THANKS, NIGEL.

A TOAST: CHEERS TO OLD FRIENDS.

Lola is the closest thing in my life you could call a friend.

DO YOU REALIZE THAT WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR ***FORTY YEARS?***

The disease running through her brain is slowly withering her body away.

TO MY DEAREST FRIEND.

My only friend.

YOU MUST KNOW *EVERYTHING* ABOUT EACH OTHER AT THIS POINT.

I SUPPOSE WE *DO.*

MOM, HOW COME YOU NEVER LEFT WOODBROOK?

AFTER YOUR DAD PASSED, IT JUST MADE SENSE TO *STAY.*

I SAM'S BEEN *ALL OVER* THE *WORLD,* THOUGH.

Oh, REALLY?

I LEFT FOR COLLEGE AND SPENT A FEW YEARS TRAVELING.

MY PARENTS WANTED ME TO TAKE OVER THE STORE, THOUGH. I HATED THE IDEA, BUT I DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF OPTIONS THEN.

Nigel, you know I can take care of myself.

I *wish* you'd go back to school to finish your masters.

Mom, I *told* you, it's *fine.*

WOODBROOK'S NOT SO BAD ONCE YOU FIND YOUR PLACE IN IT.

TOOLS

"AXE" US

OUT OUR GR

CLOSED FOR PARADE

KIDS, STAY WHERE WE CAN SEE YOU!

YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO KEEP THE STORE OPEN JUST IN CASE, SAM?

SUPPLIES

HURRY, WE'RE GONNA MISS EVERYTHING!

FALL IS A LOT

HERE...

'BAKE

IE S

CHARLIE, SNAP OUT OF IT.

SO *WHAT* IF THE CORPORATE STORES ARE OPEN TODAY?

CANDY FLOSS

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOUR HOME TOWN TURNS *TWO HUNDRED.*

THE FLOATS ARE COMING!

GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY, FINE PEOPLE OF WOODBROOK!

DING DNNNG

LOOK, IT'S BERTIE!

WOW!

THAT FLOAT REALLY TURNED OUT GREAT.

NOT BAD AT ALL.

LOOKING GREAT, BERTIE!

RIP

DING DINNG

DING DING

BERTIE, WATCH OUT!

COC

ARGH!

SS WOODROW

There was a brief moment before anyone else had noticed...

JESUS! Oh, Jesus Christ--

...and then we all crossed into a dark and strange land.

Let's say you did have someone who didn't play by the rules... Just started murdering folks right here in Woodbrook.

Wouldn't take much bad luck for an investigation to stumble onto the wrong killer and find out what this town's favorite brown bear has been up to over the past couple decades...

...if someone were **stupid enough** to do that, then we'd have a problem.

SS WOODBROOK

Ice Cream

A major fucking problem.

HOPPING BLOCK
BUTCHERY

EVENING EDITION

★ ★ ★

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S KEEN TO BE SEEN

★ ★ ★

WOODBROOK WANDERER

PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS OF WOODBROOK AND SURROUNDING AREAS

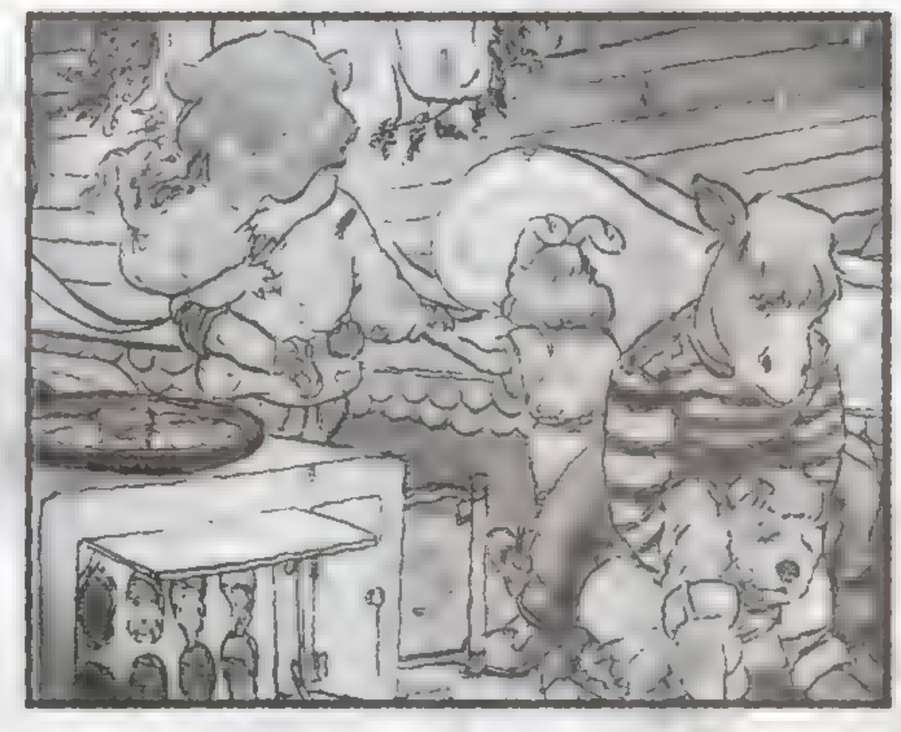
EDITOR IN CHIEF: WALLACE HAMPTON

VOLUME SEVEN | SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 1992 | NUMBER TWO

LOCAL FOUND SLAIN IN GRISLY MURDER SCENE

THRONGS OF SHOCKED PARADE-GOERS SUBJECTED TO UNSPEAKABLE SIGHT

MURDERER STILL AT LARGE



among Kimbell Manor mayor Ken Long, have ordered a closed with Mr. Monroe a Hampton Arms Inn & Marina's owner was the American worker who shot Miss Cunningham's parents. On the day of August 2nd citizens were caught this [illegible] system.

If an choreographer contemporaries there seems to be one a leading body it is Zeb Hathaways, whose interest concerning ballet, "Invocation," embodied the contemporary and the traditional as a political statement band, from a the Congo Republic she has lived in Montreal since 19[illegible] and is also a philosophy teacher

Although the Montreal school is not a home event, it has occasionally spotted companies by country or region within a larger event. Eleven countries are represented in the festival, which ends on Saturday. The principle aim is a choreographers attend to the musical potentials within a more free

the company based [illegible] and three other women, Yuki Lawrence, Paula Christiana Berger and Marianne Beth Lange, a new group like Mr. Hathaways, with whom she once worked. Ms. Kimbell gives vignettes a powerful theatrical treatment the qualities associated with African dance such as rhythm and energy the choreographers have a preoccupation with these styles.

The [illegible] opening show, danced by the company's physical dancing like the other dances we pick up on the street. The troupe sought up old beds on a split sentiments, empty beer barrel pumps to shape

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WorkWear
UNIFORMS AND SERVICE INDUSTRY APPAREL
10% OFF FOR BICENTENNIAL WEEK!

Ahem.

THIS HAS BEEN AN *AWFUL* DAY. ONE OF THE WORST I CAN THINK OF FOR WOODBROOK.

WE KNOW YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, AND WE WANTED TO LET SHERIFF PATTERSON TELL YOU ALL WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR.

THANKS, MAYOR. *Uh*... I'm sorry, I hate using these things.

CAN YOU HEAR ME OKAY IF I JUST *TALK LOUD*?

FOR ANYONE WHO STILL HASN'T HEARD, THE ***BODY*** OF ***MARTIN*** BRAND WAS DISCOVERED THIS AFTERNOON DURING THE PARADE.

I'M SURE MOST OF YOU KNEW MARTIN FROM HIS ***THIRTY YEARS*** OF SERVICE AS OUR LIBRARIAN UP UNTIL HIS RECENT RETIREMENT. I KNOW ALL OF US ARE PRETTY SHOOK UP OVER THIS.

TO STATE THE OBVIOUS...

...MARTIN WAS ***MURDERED.***

THE FIRST MURDER HERE IN OVER ***FORTY YEARS.***

A GRIM REMINDER THAT ***EVIL*** CAN POP UP JUST ABOUT ***ANYWHERE.*** EVEN HERE IN WOODBROOK.

Their poor brains are starting to short-circuit already.

WE'RE STARTING A ***CURFEW*** TONIGHT AT NINE P.M.

AN INVESTIGATION IS UNDERWAY, BUT PLEASE UNDERSTAND...

...***WE'VE GOT A KILLER AT LARGE.***

You can see it on their faces.

YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD RUMORS THAT IT MAY BE SOMEONE FROM THE CITY OR A STRANGER PASSING THROUGH...

...BUT I ALSO WANT TO STRESS, THERE'S A ***CHANCE*** THE KILLER COULD BE ***ONE OF US...***

...SOMEONE ***LOCAL.***

WHAT ***I*** WANT TO KNOW IS WHY BERTIE ISN'T IN HANDCUFFS ALREADY? SEEMS PRETTY SIMPLE TO ME... IT WAS ***HIS OWN FLOAT.*** AND SOMEHOW HE JUST ***DIDN'T NOTICE*** THE ***DEAD GOAT*** THAT WAS ***TIED TO IT?!***

Bullshit.

They're realizing for the first time that there is no safety net.

CHERRY, I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE SCARED, BUT LET'S NOT *LOSE OUR HEADS.*

WE HAVE A LIST OF SUSPECTS THAT WE'RE PUTTING TOGETHER, AND WE'LL--

I'M NOT *SCARED.* I'M *ANGRY!*

WHO'S ON THE LIST?!

C'MON, HOWARD!

THIS WHOLE MEETING IS A *WASTE OF TIME.*

=sigh=

Cherry *fucking* Gherkins.

ARE YOU SURE WE CAN'T WALK YOU HOME? EVERYTHING SEEMS SO... *DANGEROUS* ALL OF A SUDDEN.

I'LL BE ALL RIGHT, LOLA. I PROMISE. G'NIGHT, YOU TWO.

GOODNIGHT, SAM.

Good spirits of Woodbrook, watch over our dear friend Sam...

This town's not big enough for two psychopaths, not to mention one so reckless.

Going to have to solve this for them before they do something stupid and catch the wrong one.

Bertie, you're being a *baby.*

I want you to put on your *big-boy pants,* march out there...

...and *THROW OUT THIS TRASH!*

Nobody's waiting out there to clobber me, right, Anchovy?

Arf!

And you'll protect me this time if there is, right?

It's just a normal, ordinary day.

Bad things don't happen on ordinary days, right?

ARF! ARF!

ARF! ARF!

HEY, BERTIE.

EEP!

AAAAGH! PLEASE, SAM, DON'T HURT ME!

IT WASN'T ME! I SWEAR I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO MARTIN!

BERTIE... Oh boy...

...LISTEN, I KNOW IT WASN'T YOU. I JUST WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT THE NIGHT BEFORE.

I ALREADY TOLD THE SHERIFF EVERY-THING I KNOW.

I'M SURE YOU DID. HEY, YOU WANT A SOUR APPLE CHEW-POP?

...I do.

Oh, it is sour apple.

YOU KNOW, BERTIE, SOMETIMES WHEN I'M TRYING TO REMEMBER SOMETHING AND I'M STRESSED OUT, I FORGET THE LITTLE DETAILS. BUT LATER, WHEN I'M DOING THE DISHES, IT'LL JUST POP INTO MY HEAD.

KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

YEAH, I GUESS SO. I SWEAR I TOLD HIM EVERYTHING I COULD THINK OF--

YOU KNOW, THERE WAS SOMETHING I DIDN'T MENTION. I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS WHAT YOU MEAN, THOUGH.

"THE NIGHT BEFORE THE PARADE, I WAS RUSHING TO FINISH UP THE LAST OF THE DECORATIONS. ALL THAT WAS LEFT WAS THE LAVENDER.

"*MELODY DAVIS* HAD BEEN HELPING OUT THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS."

ALL RIGHT, BERTIE, I THINK THIS IS THE LAST OF IT.

LET ME KNOW WHAT... *Ah--*

Ah--

CHOO!

GESUNDHEIT!

MELODY, ARE YOU OKAY?

=Sniff=

Sorry. IT TURNS OUT I'M *REALLY* ALLERGIC TO LAVENDER. I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS GONNA BE SO...

...much--

--CHOOOO!

Oh, MELODY, I DIDN'T KNOW. I CAN HANDLE THE REST OF THIS. YOU GO AHEAD AND GO HOME.

HAVE A GOOD NIGHT, AND THANKS AGAIN!

OKAY, SEE YOU AT THE PARADE TOMORROW!

Ah-CHOO!

Gesund-heit.

Melody?

AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST MELODY STILL LEAVING, YOU KNOW?

OR SOMEBODY *ELSE* ALLERGIC TO LAVENDER?

THEN AGAIN, MAYBE IT *WAS* MELODY... HANGING BACK, WAITING FOR YOU TO LEAVE...

NO, YOU DON'T THINK MELODY COULD DO SOMETHING LIKE *THAT*... DO YOU?

COULD BE, BERTIE. SOMETIMES YOU *NEVER KNOW* WHAT FOLKS ARE *CAPABLE OF.*

ON THE OTHER HAND, IT DOESN'T TAKE A BRAINIAC TO KNOW THAT *CHERRY GHERKINS* GAVE YOU THAT *SHINER.*

PLEASE DON'T SAY ANYTHING, SAM.

SHE'LL THINK I *TOLD* ON HER!

OH, HEY THERE, SAM. WAS JUST HAVING A FEW WORDS WITH CHARLIE.

I'M BACKTRACKING MARTIN'S LAST COUPLE OF DAYS. CHARLIE SAYS YOU WERE HELPING BERTIE WITH SOMETHING ON HIS FLOAT AND THEN YOU LEFT TOWN FOR AN APPOINTMENT.

DO YOU MIND IF I ASK WHAT FOR?

JUST THE REGULAR TRIP I DO UP TO CENTERVILLE EVERY MONTH OR SO. COUPLE OF SHOPS UP THERE I DO BUSINESS WITH. CHARLIE COULD HAVE TOLD YOU THAT.

Oh yeah, HE *DID* TELL ME THAT. MUST BE NICE HEADING THERE EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.

LET YOURSELF GET LOST IN THE BIG CITY FOR AN HOUR OR TWO...

WELL, I APPRECIATE IT, SAM. I MIGHT BE BACK.

ANYTIME, SHERIFF.

CHARLIE, I'M BACK!

THANKS AGAIN, CHARLIE!

Oh!

HOME SURVEILLANCE

NEW SMOKE

MINI

SO SORRY. HERE, YOU DROPPED THIS.

uh...

...thanks!

HOW'S BUSINESS SO FAR?

BUSY, SAM.

DEAD BOLTS, DOOR CHAINS, BARREL BOLTS, FLUSH BOLTS, SLIDE BOLTS, DOOR BARS, PADLOCKS, COMBO LOCKS, BIKE LOCKS, DOOR SENSORS, WINDOW SENSORS, MOTION LIGHTS, SECURITY CAMS...

IT'S BEEN *NONSTOP* SINCE I OPENED THE DOORS.

HOOOOOOOOOOOOONK

I'M S... EVERYONE'S STILL PRETTY SPOOKED ABOUT THE--

Ah geez, IS IT ELEVEN O'CLOCK ***ALREADY?*** MUST BE TIME FOR CHERRY'S LATTE.

Cherry ***goddamn*** Gherkins...

HEY! YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE YOUR CAR LIKE THAT! WHAT'RE YOU ***DOING?!***

SHE'S VERY ***MEAN***... AND ***VERY*** PUNCTUAL...

YES, I ***CAN,*** YOU ***IDIOT!***

HEY, CHARLIE, WANT A ***COFFEE?***

HOW 'BOUT A HOT CHOCOLATE?

Oh, YES, PLEASE. WITH ***MARSH-MALLOWS!***

NO THANKS, SAM, I HAVEN'T EVEN TOUCHED THE POT I MADE THIS MORNING.

HOOOOOOOOOOOOONK

WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS *EVERY* TIME? JUST GIVE ME MY LATTE AND I CAN GO. I DON'T HAVE *TIME* TO *WAIT.* I'M *DOUBLE-PARKED.*

Hey, what gives?!

I KEEP TELLING YOU GUYS, IF YOU JUST LET ME ORDER FROM HOME, THIS *WOULDN'T* BE A *PROBLEM.*

I JUST WANT MY *LATTE.*

Of course, ma'am.

I DON'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS. I CAN TAKE MY BUSINESS *SOMEWHERE ELSE,* YOU KNOW.

AND DON'T BOTHER WITH THE *STUPID FLOWER* ON TOP. IT'S A *WASTE OF TIME,* AND IT *NEVER* LOOKS GOOD.

Of course, ma'am.

BOY, I JUST SAW BERTIE AND HE SURE HAD A *SHINER* OF A *BLACK EYE.* SOMEONE MUST HAVE POPPED HIM *PRETTY HARD* IN THE HEAD.

Poor little guy...

...IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOME ***HOTHEAD*** WHO JUMPED TO CONCLUSIONS EVEN THOUGH IT'S ***PRETTY OBVIOUS*** HE DIDN'T HAVE ***ANYTHING*** TO DO WITH IT.

WHATEVER THE HELL HE TOLD YOU, IT'S A ***LIE!***

THAT'S A REAL ***SHORT TEMPER,*** CHERRY.

WHERE WERE ***YOU*** THE NIGHT MARTIN WAS KILLED?

LISTEN, YOU ***FURRY BITCH--***

--SAY ***ANOTHER WORD*** AND I'LL ***SUE YOU*** FOR ***HARASSMENT*** AND ***DEFAMATION.***

So.

FUCK--

--OFF!

WE WON'T BE *BULLIED* BY *YOUR KIND* ANY-MORE!

Your latte is ready.

Espresso
Latte
Americano
Breve
Macchiato

Espresso
Latte
Americano
Breve
Macchiat

Ma'am, you didn't pay for your latte.

Coffee
Tea
Seltzer
Croissant

Espresso
Latte
Americar
Breve
Macchiat

I DON'T HAVE *TIME* FOR THIS *BULL-SHIT!*

HOOOOOOOOONK

TRAGEDY STRUCK THE QUAINT TOWN OF WOODBROOK, BRINGING THE SUMMER TO A BLOODY END AND LEAVING THIS NORMALLY CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY IN SHAMBLES.

TERRIFYING QUESTIONS REMAIN UNANSWERED: **WHO** COULD HAVE COMMITTED SUCH A **HEINOUS ACT**, AND ARE THEY **STILL HERE** IN THIS COMMUNITY?

VULTURES!

Terror in Woodbrook

WWML

THEY SHOW UP EVERY TIME THEY CAN MAKE A BUCK BY SCARING THE LOCALS.

THEY WANT YOU TO THINK ***ANYBODY*** COULD BE A VICTIM INSTEAD OF HOLDING PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN ACTIONS.

CURFEW OR NOT, THERE'S A ***MURDERER*** OUT THERE, HONEY.

YOU'RE ***STILL*** GOING FOR YOUR WALK?

Oh, HOWARD. YOU'RE SUCH A ***PUSHOVER.*** THEY'LL WALK ALL OVER YOU IF YOU LET 'EM.

THINK PIG!

THAT'S WHY I MARRIED YOU.

SMOOCH

YOU'D BE LOST IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE ME WATCHING OUT FOR YOU.

I LOVE YOU, SWEETIE.

IF SOME IDIOT DECIDES TO MESS WITH *CHERRY FUCKING GHERKINS...*

...IT'LL BE THE LAST MISTAKE THEY MAKE.

H-hello...?

VRGOOOOM

Oh!

DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND ANYONE *ELSE* OUT TONIGHT.

...balls...

WELL, I'M GLAD TO SEE THERE'S AT LEAST SOMEBODY OTHER THAN *ME* IN THIS TOWN THAT HAS A PAIR OF...

LISTEN, PAL, I DON'T SCARE EASILY, SO YOU CAN FUCK RIGHT OFF WITH--

SAHA!

SSSSH

FWISSS

ohmygodohmygodohmygod

KRUNK

STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

...please...

...don't...

CRUNK

LOVELY MORNING TODAY!

IT REALLY *IS.* HAVE A GREAT DAY!

When the news spread about Cherry, you could feel it in the air.

Like the pressure just dropped...

FWRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRP

HEAD OF THE CLASS

Super Star

ANOTHER GRUESOME DAY HERE IN THE VILLAGE OF WOODBROOK...

8 Killer Strikes Again 8 WNML

...WITH ANOTHER VICTIM AND A KILLER ON THE LOOSE, THE PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW...

...WHO COULD BE CAPABLE OF SUCH A BRUTAL ACT, AND WHEN WILL THEY BE STOPPED?

WITH A SHERIFF LIKE THIS, MAYBE WE'D BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT ONE!

YEAH!

YEAH!

...and the tornado was right around the corner.

★ ★ ★

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S KEEN TO BE SEEN

★ ★ ★

WOODBROOK WANDER ER

PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS OF WOODBROOK AND SURROUNDING AREAS

EDITOR IN CHIEF: WALLACE HAMPTON

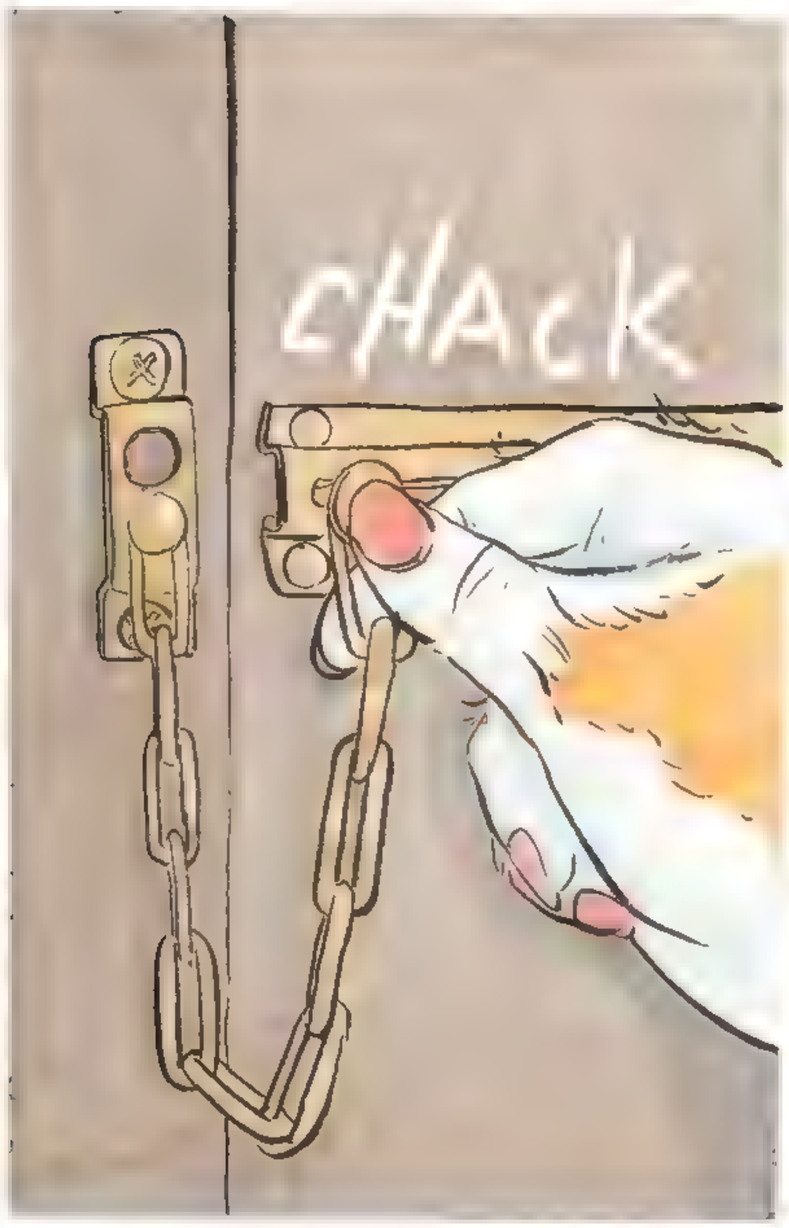
VOLUME SEVEN | MONDAY OCTOBER 01, 1962 | NUMBER THREE

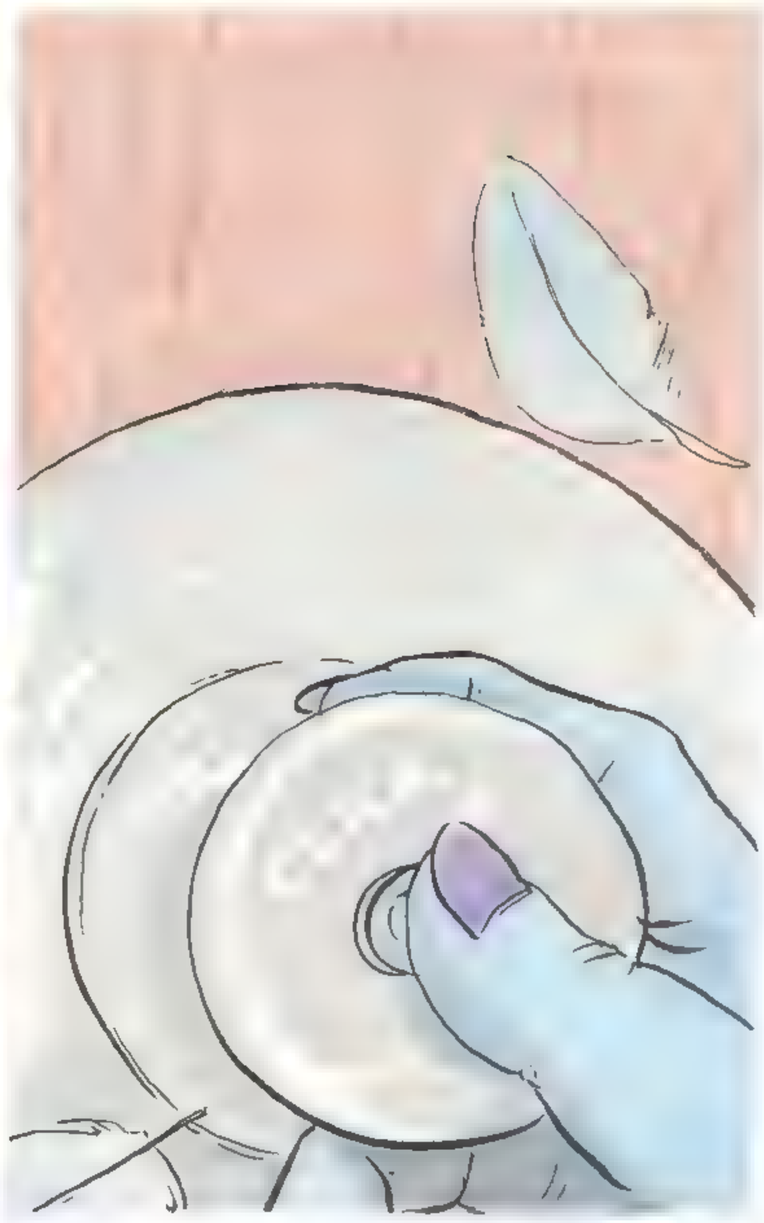
KILLER STRIKES AGAIN

OUTSPOKEN LOCAL FIGURE FOUND DECAPITATED AT GRUESOME SCENE

BAFFLED POLICE BELIEVE KILLER MAY BE TAUNTING THE FRIGHTENED COMMUNITY

Ace Peacock
FINE FASHIONS
25% OFF ALL WEEK


cHAck



The problem with a monster that can hide in plain sight is that none of the normal things work.
909
Chances are, they've already made themselves cozy right there with you, behind the locked door.

909
You've known them your whole life. They're your friend. They're your neighbor.

They'll nod their head, make you feel understood...

...do their best to make you feel comfortable.

They're just biding their time.

DING DING

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE STILL OPEN. EVERYTHING SEEMS SO... *DANGEROUS.*

Oh, I'LL HAVE FOUR OF THE VEAL CUTLETS, PLEASE.

TELL ME ABOUT IT. MY KID'S CONVINCED SHE'S GOING TO GET *MURDERED* JUST WALKING HOME FROM SCHOOL, AND--

Oh, CAN I GRAB TWO POUNDS OF THE ROAST?

AND IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU NEVER LEAVE THE HOUSE AGAIN.

AH-CHOO!

Oh! BLESS YOU, MELODY.

A coiled snake inside of a skull...

THANKS, MARY.

PLOP

...squirming behind two placid eyes.

SORRY, IT MUST BE *ALLERGIES.*

$ 3.55

In a town like Woodbrook, the easiest mistake to make is confusing familiarity with knowing.

PLEASE Take A Number

FWIP

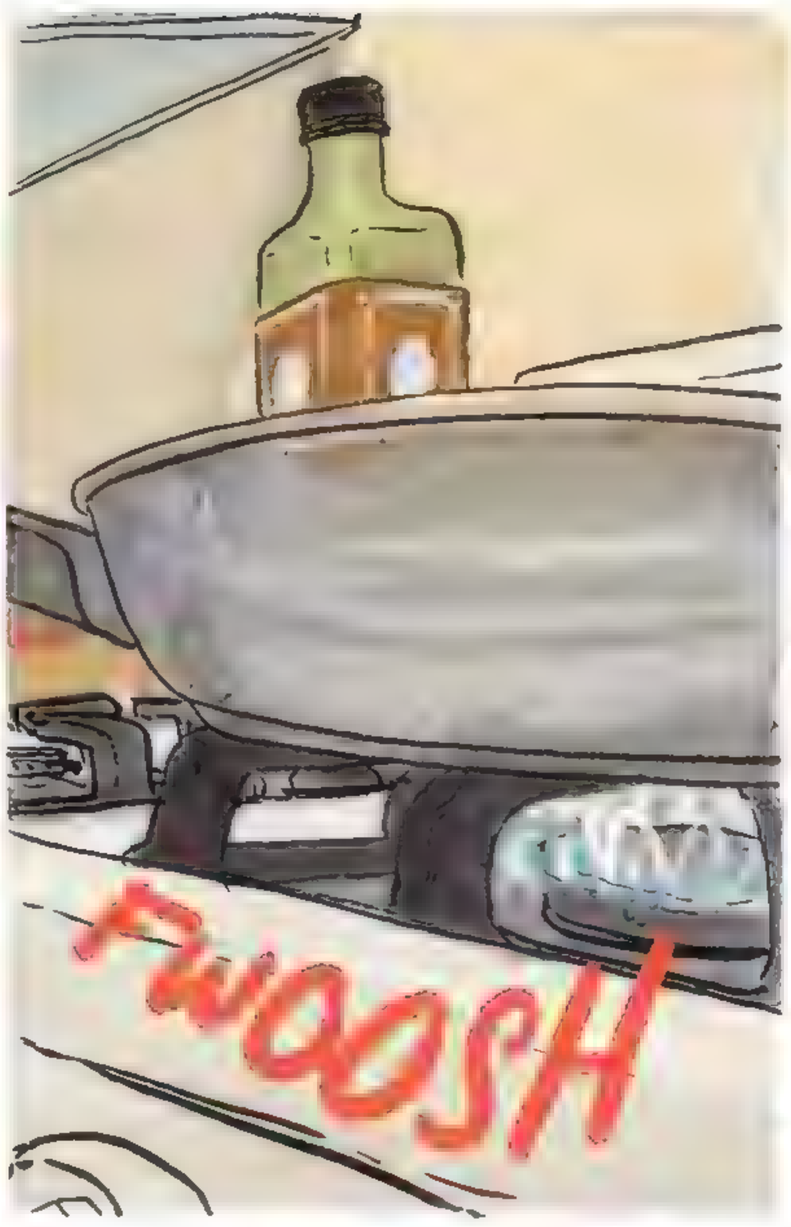
14

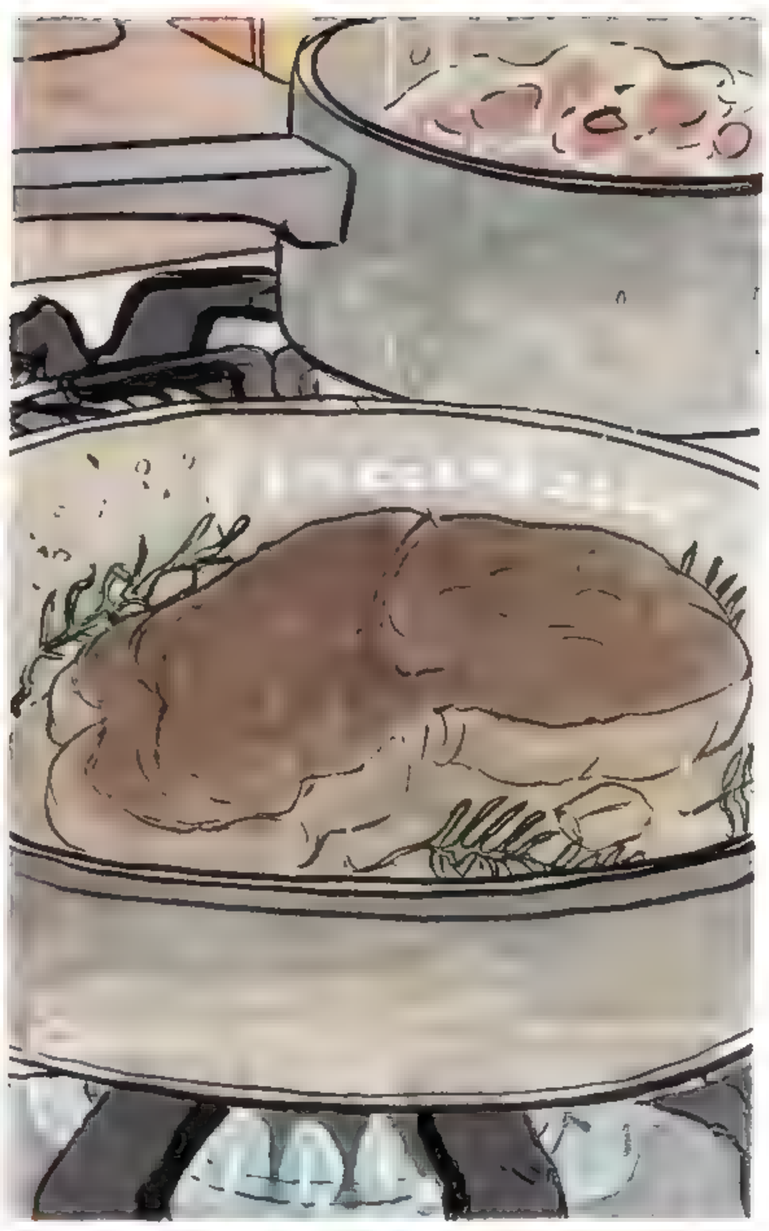
FWUMP

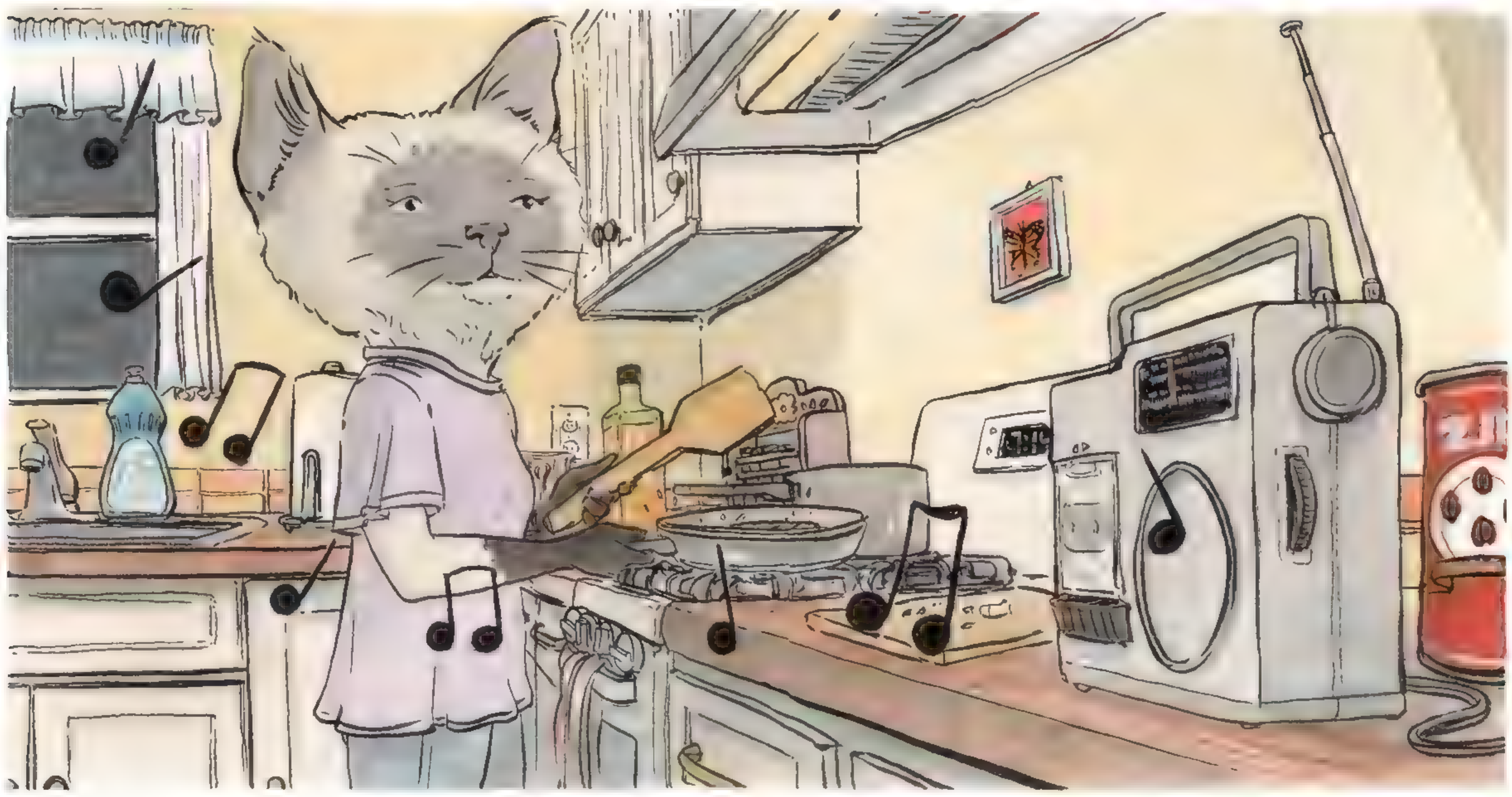
The more you learn about someone, the more you realize you hardly know them at all.

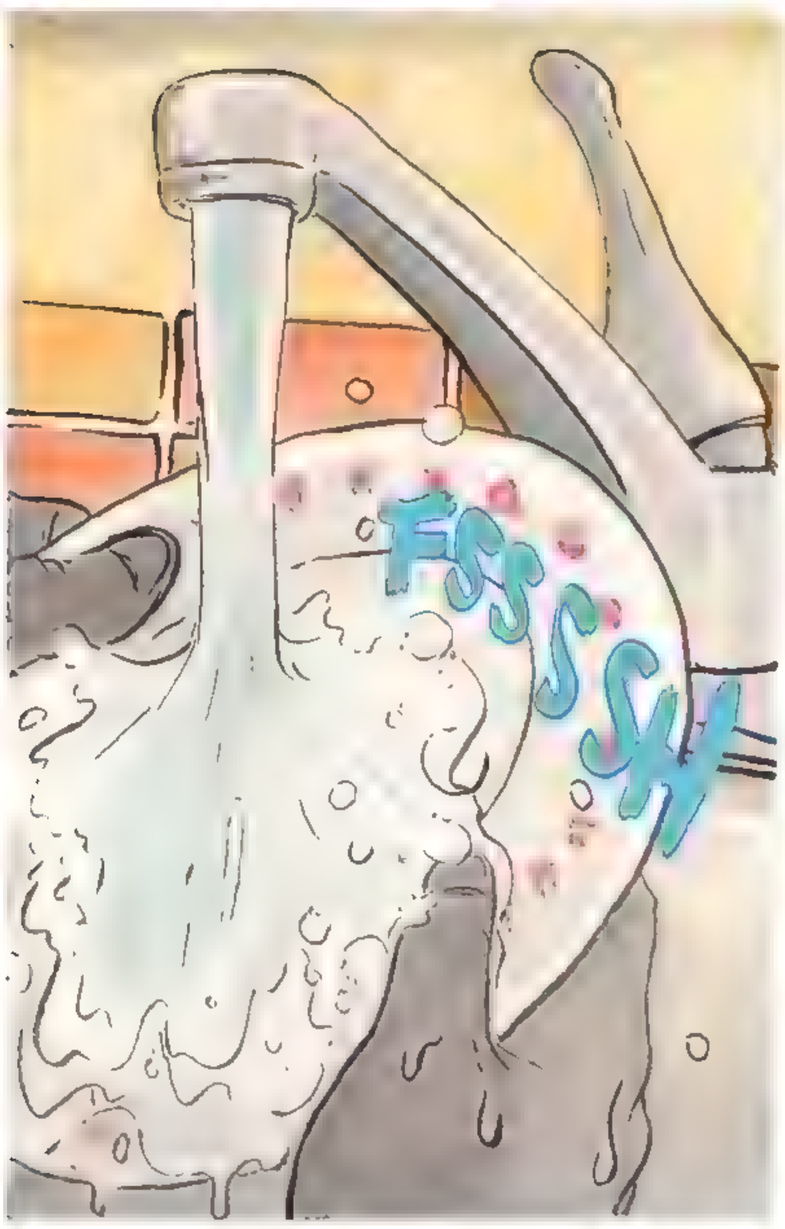
STORE HOURS
Mon - Sat
8:30 - 6:30
Sorry WE'RE CLOSED
WE JUST DON'T THINK THE KIDS ARE *READY* TO GO TO A *FUNERAL.*
I KNOW I ALWAYS SAY WOODBROOK IS A BIT TOO BORING, BUT TO BE HONEST--
--I THINK I LIKED IT A LOT BETTER WHEN IT WAS *BORING.*
So when you're searching for a monster that can hide in plain sight, you can't trust your eyes.
SAME HERE, CHARLIE.
Aaahh-CHOOOOO!
You gotta follow your nose.

kpLINk


WOOSH



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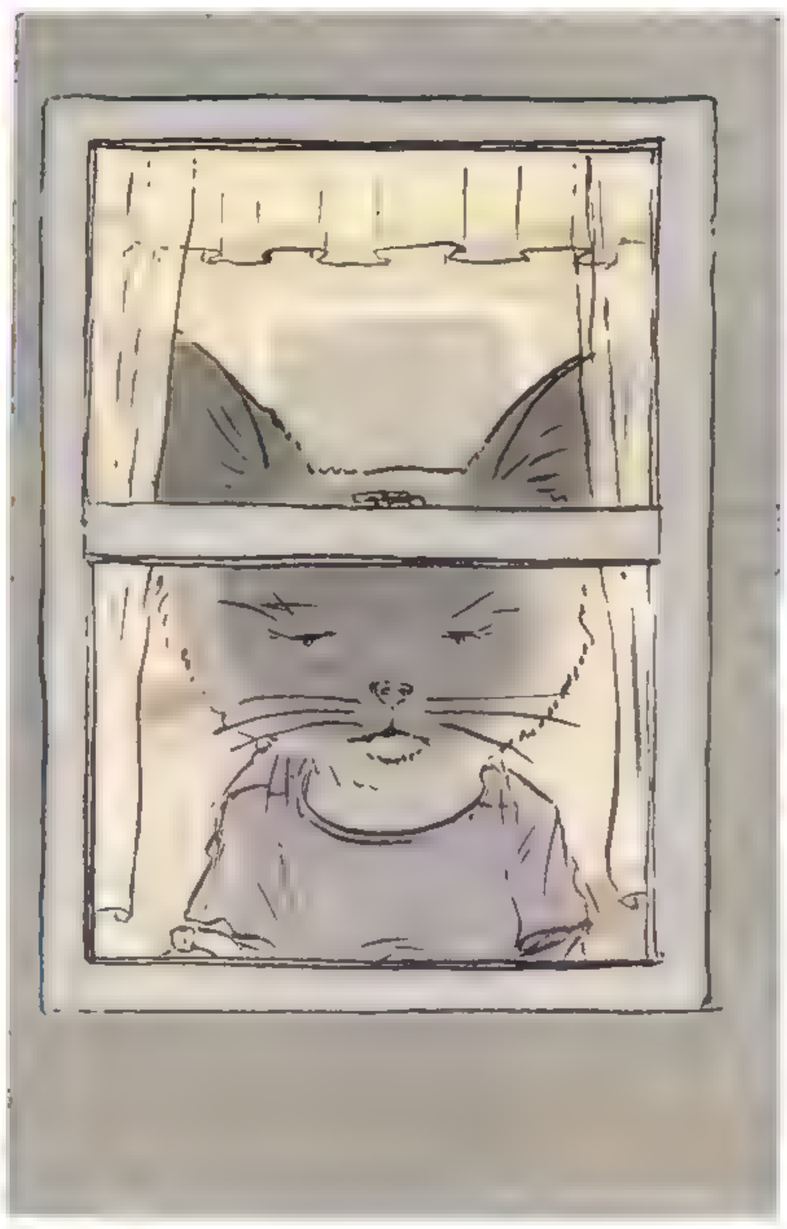


SSSS

FEAR, PARANOIA, AND INTRIGUE.

WITH A ***KILLER AT LARGE*** AND A SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WITH NO LEADS, LITTLE COMFORT CAN BE FOUND HERE IN WOODBROOK.

AS THE LIST OF VICTIMS ***GROWS,*** THE QUESTION ON EVERYONE'S MIND IS ***WHEN,*** NOT ***IF,*** THE KILLER WILL ***STRIKE AGAIN.***

GOOD MORNING, SAMANTHA.

Oh, HI, MELODY. GOOD MORNING!

Can you spot the monster?

FWIP 9

WHUMP

Could be your friend.

DING DING

ZHUUT ZHUUT ZHUUT

Could be your neighbor.

CLINK

Could be the butcher...

...whose dead husband may or may not actually be buried in the ground.

SQUIRT

SPLUT

Who's to say?

IT'S SO NICE THAT YOU ALL STOPPED BY TO WALK HOME TOGETHER.

IT'S NOT *SAFE* ANYMORE, SAM.

SAFETY IN NUMBERS, RIGHT, GANG?

Oh, I NEED TO TIE MY SHOE.

THE KIDS WORRY WHEN WE'RE NOT ALL TOGETHER NOW.

STRANGE TIMES, CHARLIE.

YOU KNOW WHAT? I JUST REALIZED I LEFT MY JACKET AT THE STORE. I'M GOING TO SWING BACK AND PICK IT UP.

WE CAN COME BACK WITH YOU IF YOU LIKE.

NO THANKS, I'LL BE FINE. I *PROMISE.*

KRESH

BRRR

VROOOOM

zzzzzip

jiggle
jiggle
jiggle

CLICK

CLICK

Hmmm.

Is this... FELT?

Bathroom...

CLICK

CREEEEEEEEEEAK

Oh, I see.

That's a pretty good likeness.

KA-CHUNK

CLICK

BAD NEWS *AND* GOOD NEWS, SWEETIE.

CLICK

SOMEBODY DECIDED TO THROW A *BRICK* THROUGH THE SHOP DOOR WINDOW.

The good news is that nobody took anything.

SO, GOOD LUCK? *BAD?*

I'M GONNA HOP IN THE SHOWER TO TRY AND RELAX.

I WASN'T SURE *WHO* TO EXPECT, BUT I *NEVER* WOULD'VE GUESSED *YOU,* SAM.

PLANNING ON *MURDERING SOMEBODY* TONIGHT?

I KNOW THIS *LOOKS* BAD, BUT--

--*YOU* WERE THE LAST ONE WITH BERTIE THE NIGHT MARTIN WAS KILLED, AND YOU WERE *ALLERGIC* TO LAVENDER...

...SO, I THOUGHT *MAYBE*--

SO YOU THOUGHT *I KILLED MARTIN AND CHERRY?!*

AND THAT POSSIBLY YOU HAD A *DEAD BODY* IN YOUR BED.

And you've been *spying* on me.

SORTA, YES. Sorry about that.

WE HAD *EVERYTHING*, SAM.

WE HAD THE SHOP. WE HAD THE LIFE WE ALWAYS WANTED.

"AFTER FRANK DIED, IT ALL BECAME A MASK I WORE SO PEOPLE WOULD STOP WORRYING ABOUT ME."

BUT I GET *LONELY.*

HAVING SOMETHING IN BED WITH ME HELPS.

SOMETIMES WHEN I WAKE UP, I ALMOST FORGET HE'S NOT REAL.

Please don't tell anyone.

NOT A WORD, I PROMISE.

NOW, *GET OUT OF MY HOUSE,* SAMANTHA.

FRANKLIN WARNER

I don't pretend to know what it means to them.

I know what's expected of me at things like this, and I can do enough to not be noticed.

But I do find it interesting.

I know, buddy. I know.

And I know I've caused this for countless others...

WERE YOU AT THE PARADE?

...when I choose someone and make them disappear.

LOLA, NIGEL. BLESS YOU BOTH FOR COMING.

I imagine what I cause must be even worse.

MARY, WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE WEARING SMELLS ***LOVELY.***

To be honest, it's fascinating to watch.

Oh, thanks. IT'S JUST A PERFUME I MADE MYSELF WITH ***LAVENDER OIL.***

PLEASE DO SIT WITH ME, SUSAN.

And I know whoever caused this is here today watching.

I bet they wouldn't miss it for the world.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY, I'D LIKE TO BEGIN WITH A PRAYER.

PLEASE BOW YOUR HEADS.

Ah-CHOO!

DEAR LORD...

I'll be damned.

...WE THANK THEE FOR OUR DEAR FRIEND, MARTIN.

★ ★ ★
ALL THE NEWS THAT'S KEEN TO BE SEEN
★ ★ ★

WOODBROOK WANDERER

PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS OF WOODBROOK AND SURROUNDING AREAS

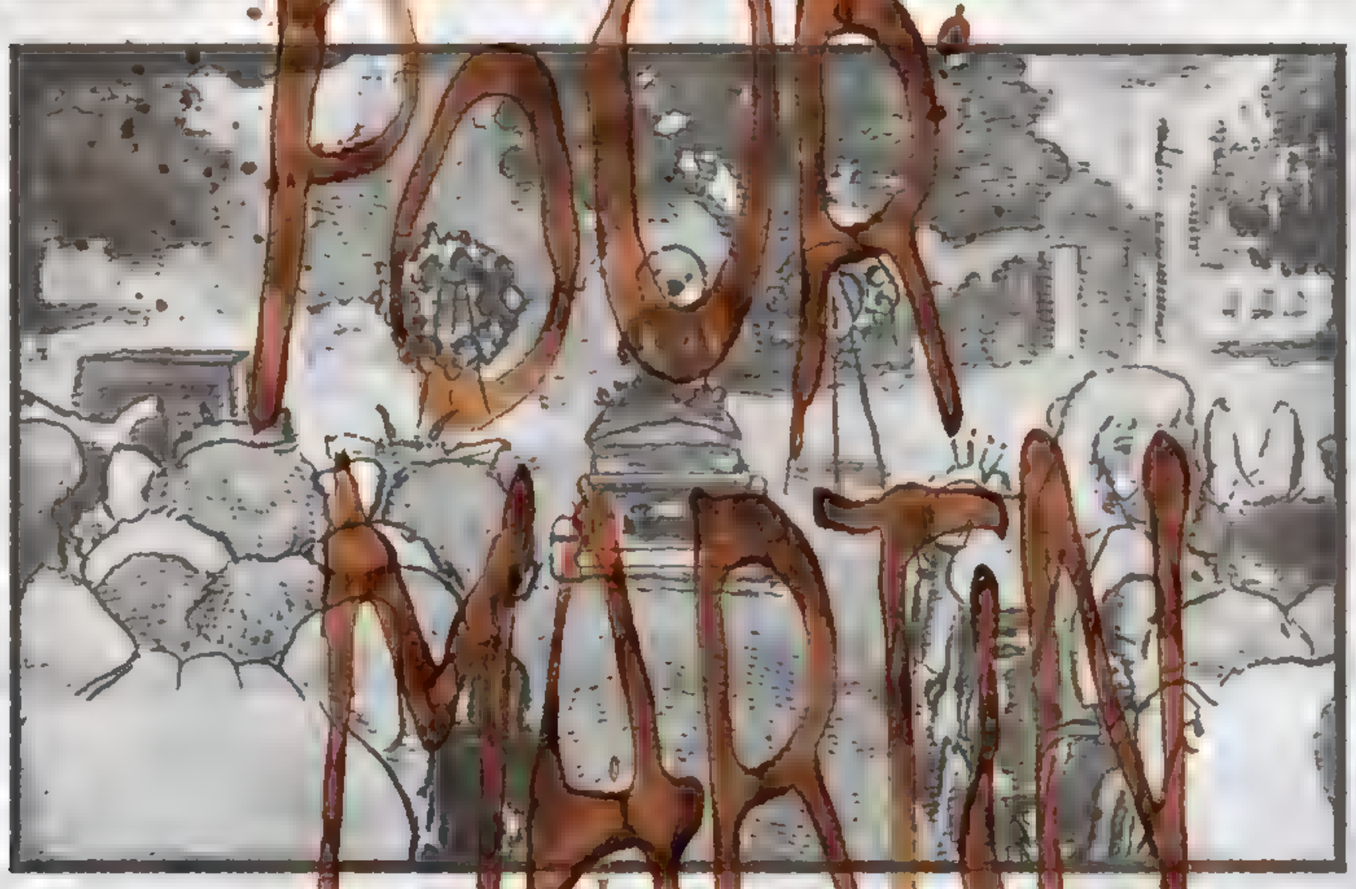
EDITOR IN CHIEF: WALLACE HAMPTON

VOLUME SEVEN | WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 08, 1952 | NUMBER FOUR

A DARK DAY IN WOODBROOK

FIRST VICTIM LAID TO REST AS FRIGHTENED COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO STAY INDOORS

POLICE STILL SEARCHING FOR CLUES TO HORRIFIC CRIMES



Ash Mahoney, who was the first victim of the Podartan, was laid to rest on Tuesday afternoon in a small ceremony at the Woodbrook Cemetery. Mahoney's body was found on the morning of Saturday 27th September by Mr Jeremiah Bowden, a local farmer who was walking his dog in the fields behind his property when he discovered the body.

Mahoney's body was found in a badly decomposed state and it is believed that he had been dead for around 48 hours before he was discovered. Police have confirmed that Mahoney's body was found in a field behind the property of Mr Jeremiah Bowden, a local farmer who was walking his dog in the fields behind his property when he discovered the body.

Although the Woodbrook Wanderer is not a large news outlet, we have been following the story closely and have been in contact with the police and other authorities in the area. We have also been in contact with the family of Mahoney and have been told that they are devastated by the loss of their son. They have asked for privacy at this difficult time and have requested that anyone with any information about the case should contact the police immediately.

The police have been appealing for anyone who may have seen anything suspicious in the area around the time of Mahoney's death to come forward. They have also been asking for anyone who may have been in the area on the night of the murder to contact them. The police have been working tirelessly to find the person responsible for this horrific crime and have been using all of the resources at their disposal to do so.

Despite the ongoing police investigation, the residents of Woodbrook have been told to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious activity to the police immediately. The police have also been advising residents to lock their doors and windows at night and to be aware of their surroundings at all times.

The community of Woodbrook has been left shocked and saddened by the events of the past few days, and many residents have been afraid to leave their homes since the discovery of Mahoney's body. The local community has been coming together to support each other during this difficult time, with many people offering their help and support to the police and to the Mahoney family.

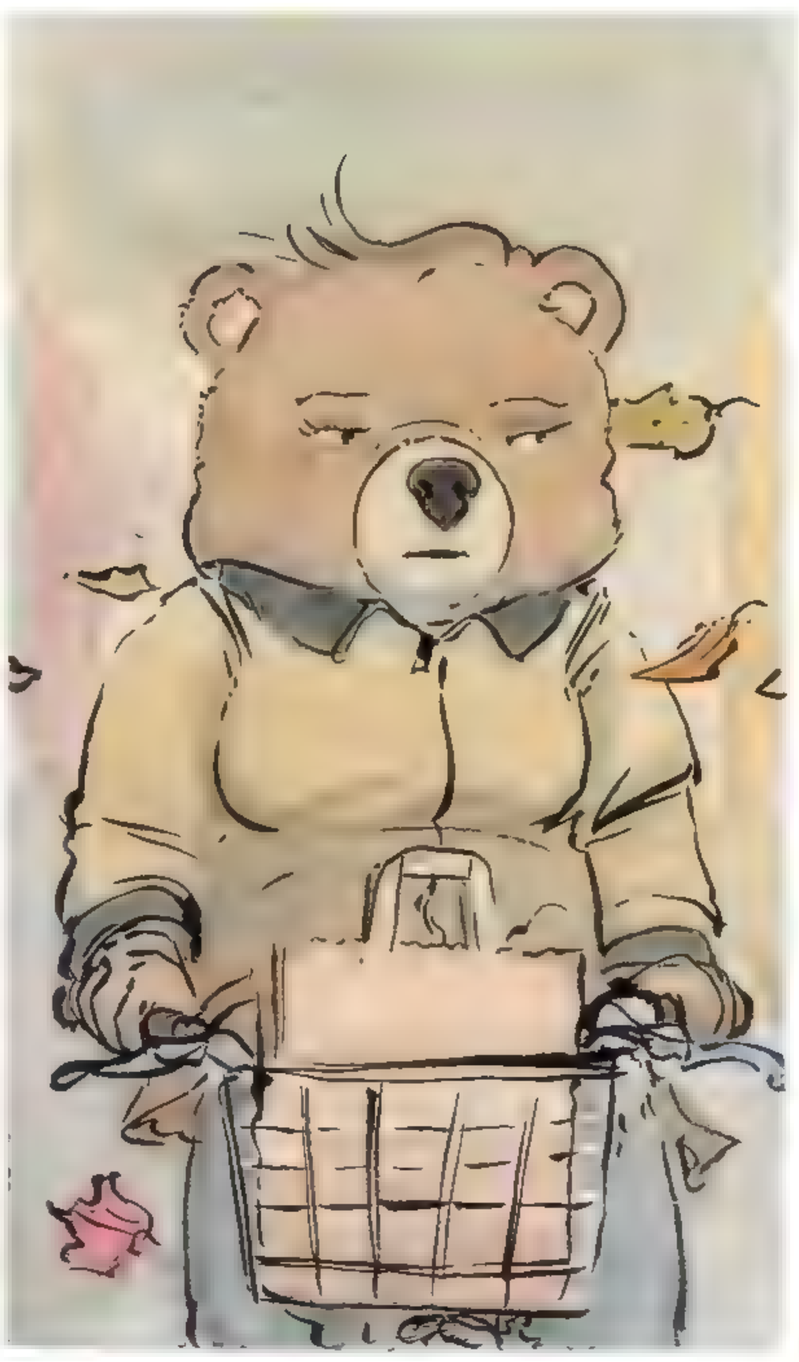
The police have been working tirelessly to find the person responsible for this horrific crime and have been using all of the resources at their disposal to do so. They have also been asking for anyone who may have been in the area on the night of the murder to contact them. The police have been working tirelessly to find the person responsible for this horrific crime and have been using all of the resources at their disposal to do so.

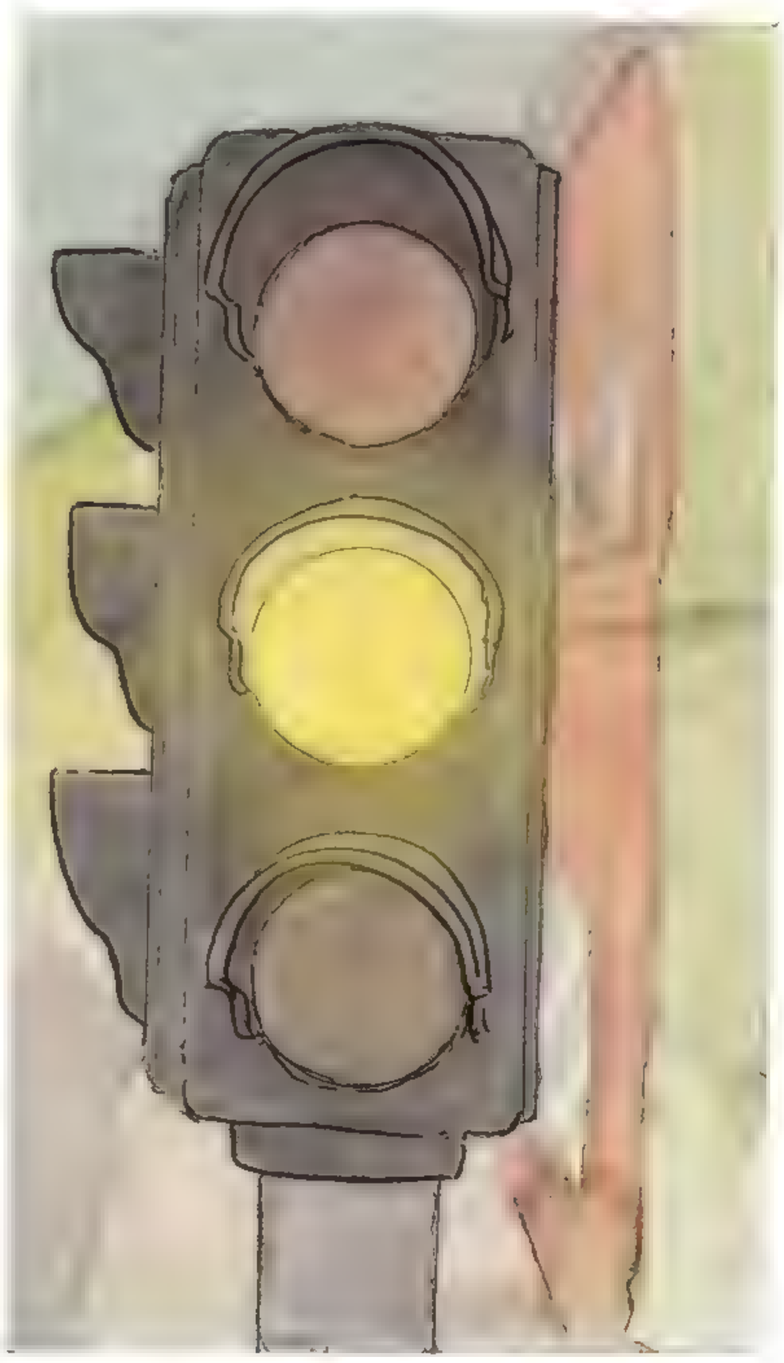
MOOSEMAN MARKET
GROCERIES · TREATS

Both Market and Main Street have timed traffic lights.
PAW

Catch a green light and you can make it all the way through to the end if you keep moving at around twenty-three miles per hour.

Doesn't matter as much when there's no traffic.





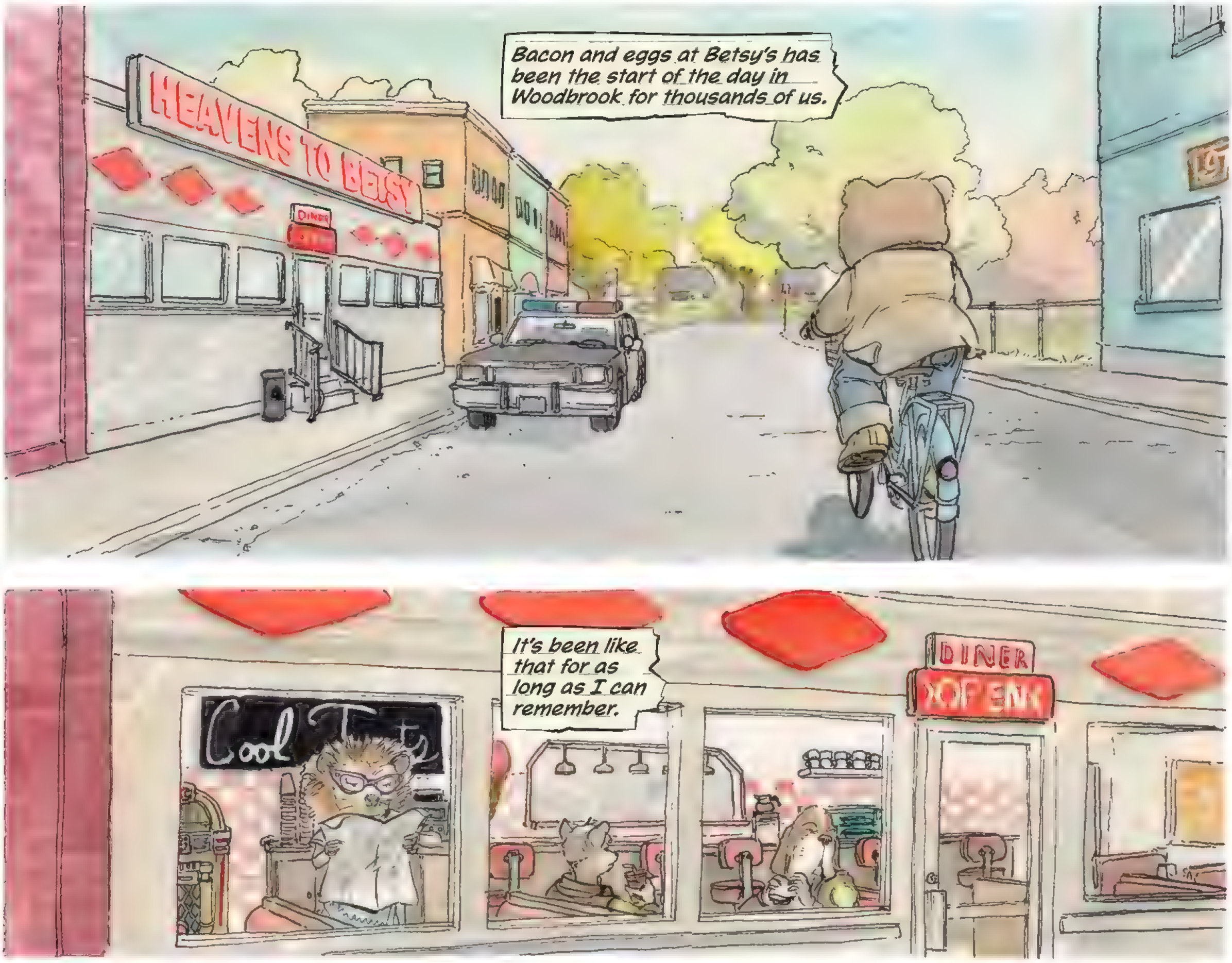
The Bijou Theater has been entertaining Woodbrook for over six decades.

Seat G in row L is my favorite.

It has the perfect view, even on a packed night.

Which has not been the case in a while.

BIJOU


HEAVENS TO BETSY
DINER
Bacon and eggs at Betsy's has been the start of the day in Woodbrook for thousands of us.
Cool Tees
It's been like that for as long as I can remember.
DINER
OPEN
But it feels like everything is out of step these days...
...like everything has changed.
KNOCK
KNOCK
I don't do well with change.

SAM, THESE CAKES ARE *EXQUISITE!*

YOU REALLY DIDN'T HAVE TO.

IT'S MY PLEASURE.

I DIDN'T THINK I'D HAVE TIME TO PICK THEM UP, BUT THERE WASN'T A LINE *AT ALL* FOR THE BAKERY.

Oh, I KNOW, IT'S LIKE A *GHOST TOWN* OUT THERE.

IT'S A SHAME.

I SEEMS LIKE A LOT OF FOLKS ARE *TOO SCARED* TO LEAVE HOME.

Oh, I DON'T KNOW. I MEAN, *BAD STUFF* HAPPENS ALL OVER THE WORLD. SEEMS *NAIVE* TO THINK IT WOULDN'T HAPPEN IN WOODBROOK.

IT'S SO RARE HERE, MAYBE THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

DOESN'T SEEM SO RARE *THESE DAYS.*

Oh, NIGEL.

Mom?

I'm sorry...

This is terribly rude of me. I just need to lie down for a bit.

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF ME.

BUT I STILL THINK YOU SHOULD BE OUT THERE LIVING YOUR OWN LIFE...

...OR BRINGING JOY TO SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE...

...Not holed up here with me.

SAM?

ARE YOU STILL HERE?

NIGEL, WE NEED TO TALK.

THIS IS GETTING *WAY* OUT OF HAND.

Oh, YOU *STARTLED* ME!

I *love* that feeling.

LISTEN, *KID*, YOU HAVE TO STOP STIRRING UP THIS TOWN.

OKAY, I *KNOW*, IT'S A LITTLE *OVER THE TOP*...

...BUT I NEEDED TO GET YOUR *ATTENTION*.

"A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO, WHEN I CAME BACK HOME TO TAKE CARE OF MY MOM...

"...I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO.

"SCHOOL WAS FINE, BUT THE *PEOPLE* THERE...

"...EVERYONE WAS SO FAKE.

"I'VE *ALWAYS* LIKED YOU, SAM.

"YOU WERE DIFFERENT FROM EVERYONE ELSE IN WOODBROOK.

OW TO:

HAINSAW

"AFTER A MONTH OF BEING BACK WITH MOM, I STARTED *FOLLOWING* YOU.

"JUST AROUND TOWN AND STUFF...

"...IT WAS *INNOCENT,* I SWEAR.

"THEN I FOLLOWED YOU TO *THE CITY.*

"...AND TO THE *WOODS.*"

I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT.

I'D FOUND SOMEONE JUST LIKE *ME!*

I JUST NEEDED TO *PROVE* MYSELF.

Nigel--

SO I TOOK MY FIRST SERIOUS STEP.

I WANTED TO SHOW YOU WHAT I COULD DO. WHAT *WE* COULD DO *TOGETHER.*

NIGEL, *STOP.* *SHUT UP.*

Huh?

WE'LL NEVER BE *PARTNERS.*

WE'RE NOT *FRIENDS.* WE'RE *NOTHING.*

I DO WHAT I *LIKE* ON MY *OWN,* AND YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU *NEED* TO, BUT *NOT HERE,* NOT IN *WOODBROOK.*

THIS IS A *DELICATE* TOWN, AND YOU'RE *FUCKING IT UP.*

AND *STOP FOLLOWING ME.*

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING?

Yeah, I under-stand...

...YOU'RE A *FUCKING PHONY* LIKE ALL THE REST!

NIGEL? SAM? EVERYTHING *OKAY* DOWN THERE?

CRANK

He's been watching me.

Collecting my moments--

--with his greedy little hands.

And now he's taking up space in my brain.

RISE & SHINE

Worming himself in there...

...multiplying.

CLICK

Dammit.

SUPPLIES
HERE
HI!
Say, Bob...
...MIND IF I HAVE A LOOK AT THAT PAINT CAN BEFORE YOU LEAVE?
YEAH, YOU KNOW WHAT? THIS IS ACTUALLY A *MIXED* CAN. YOU CAN SEE THE SMUDGE OF RED HERE.
OKAY, YOU'RE ALL SET. THANKS, BOB.
NO PROBLEM.
HI THERE, SAM.

LET'S GET YOU A FRESH ONE.

OCTOBER

Aw, geez, SORRY ABOUT THAT, BOB. I MUST HAVE MIXED UP THE CANS WHEN I GRABBED THEM.

NO PROBLEM AT ALL. GLAD YOU NOTICED BEFORE I GOT HOME.

SO AM I.

Sorry I *blew it.* I just didn't notice.

Aw, Charlie. DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF.

GO AHEAD AND TAKE THE REST OF THE DAY OFF.

Yeah, okay.

Sorry, I guess I really do need a new pair of glasses.

WE'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW, CHARLIE.

Have a good evening, Sam.

SUPPLIES
HERE
TAKE IN
THE SIGNS

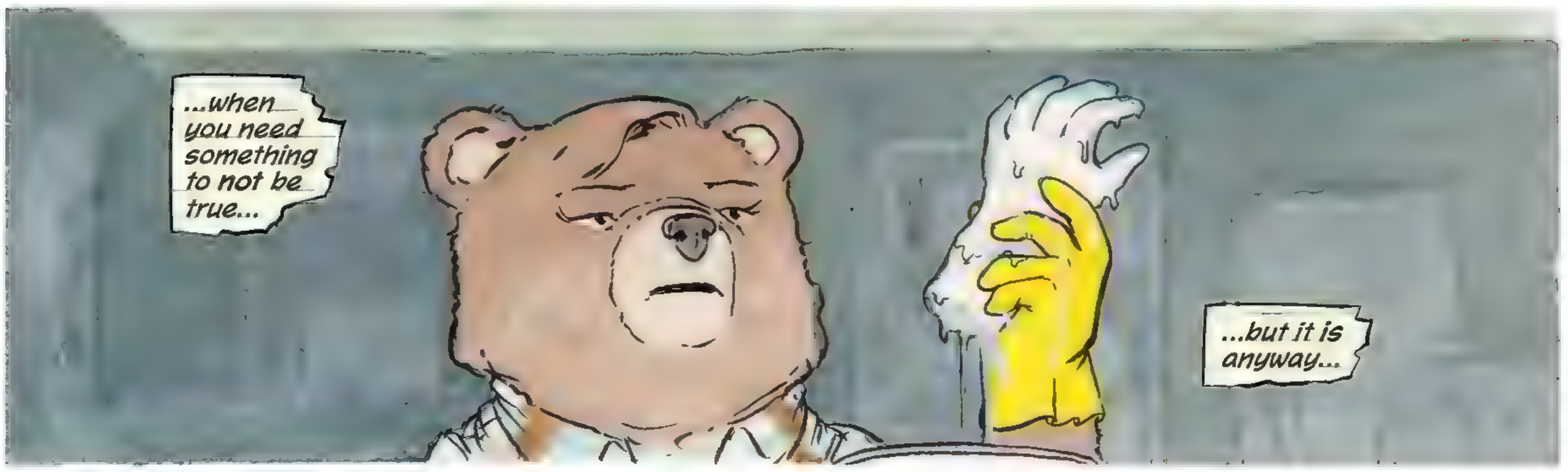
SUPPLIES
HERE
TAKE IN
THE SIGNS

BURLY BROWN BEAR
PAINT & HARDWARE
EST 1956

That sick feeling in your gut...

POP

...when you're hoping against hope...
PAINT & PRIMER


...when you need something to not be true...
...but it is anyway...

...and you can't feel your feet on the ground anymore.

LEAN TO

TOOLS

"AXE" US ABOUT OUR GREAT DEALS!

POTPOURRI

AAAAA
AAHHHH!

You son of a bitch.

YOU SON OF A BITCH!

STOP HIDING AND COME GET ME, YOU CHICKEN SHIT COWARD!

EVENIN', SAM.

GOOD EVENING, CHIP.

I, *uh*... I THOUGHT MAYBE SOMEONE WAS HIDING IN THE TREE SPYING ON ME.

DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF, SAM.

WE'RE ALL A LITTLE *JUMPY* THESE DAYS.

YAAAAWN

IFF'S LINE DO NOT CROSS SHERI

CHEESE!

CLICK

WANTED A COUPLE MORE PICTURES OF YOU BEFORE YOU LEAVE.

IT'S REALLY TOO BAD.

LATE LAST NIGHT, POOR CHARLIE GOT A CALL FROM SOMEONE WHO SOUNDED A *LOT* LIKE *YOU,* SAYING YOU NEEDED HIM DOWN AT THE STORE *RIGHT AWAY.*

AND HE NEVER MADE IT HOME...

PLEASE, JUST TELL ME IF HE'S HURT?

Oh, God, PLEASE!

"I MADE A *HELL* OF A *MESS* IN THERE.

"IT'S NOT LOOKING TOO GOOD FOR *YOU*, THOUGH, SAM. THEY'LL PROBABLY HAVE A COUPLE QUESTIONS FOR YA.

KRUNK

"HOW COULD YOU *DO THAT* TO *POOR CHARLIE?*"

I KNOW YOU FOUND THE PAINT CAN I DUG UP...

...BUT THEY JUST FOUND A *WHOLE BUNCH MORE* IN THE STORE.

"YOU *SHOULD* HAVE BEEN *NICE* TO ME, SAM."

SHERIFF?! W-WE *FOUND SOMETHING!*

DISPATCH?

GO AHEAD.

ISSUE A *BOLO* FOR *SAMANTHA STRONG.*

"SHE JUST TOPPED THE LIST AS OUR *PRIME SUSPECT* FOR THE DEATH OF CHARLIE HERE...

"...AND MOST LIKELY *EVERY OTHER GODDAMN MURDER* IN THIS TOWN.

"PUSH THAT OUT TO ALL COUNTIES...

"...AND CONSIDER HER ARMED AND *EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.*"

MISSING
DANIEL BREWER
AGE 21 HEIGHT 5'5"
Last seen wearing a blue, pink, and yellow windbreaker and jeans. If you think you may have seen this person please call:
555-324-4912
PUSH BUTTON FOR
RUSTER

ARTWORK BY

PATRICK HORVATH

★ ★ ★
ALL THE NEWS THAT'S KEEN TO BE SEEN
★ ★ ★

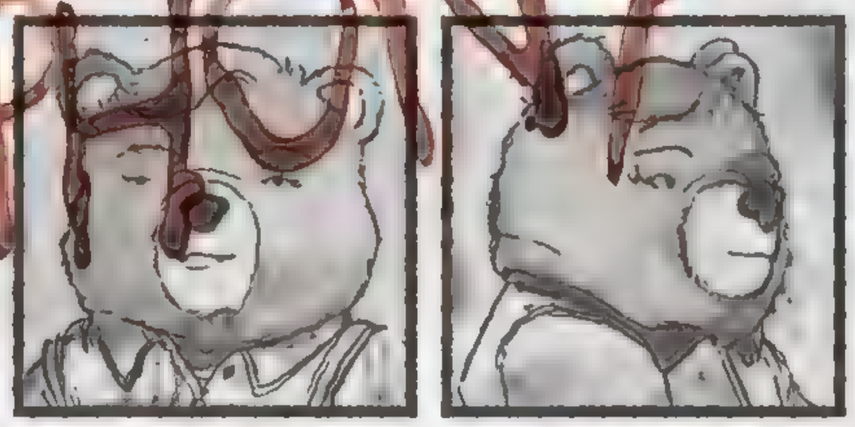
WOODBROOK WANDERER

PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS OF WOODBROOK AND SURROUNDING AREAS

EDITOR IN CHIEF: WALLACE HAMPTON

VOLUME SEVEN | FRIDAY OCTOBER 06, 1989 | NUMBER FIVE

MURDER SUSPECT IDENTIFIED



SAMANTHA STRONG SOUGHT FOR QUESTIONING

BELIEVED TO BE ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS

MULTIPLE VICTIMS' REMAINS DISCOVERED AMID LATEST CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION

PUBLIC ASKED TO NOTIFY POLICE IMMEDIATELY WITH ANY INFORMATION ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF SAMANTHA STRONG

Although the Woman stood in court a widowed ex-political prisoner from the Congo Republic she has lived

If an choreographer accompanies them home to her one dancing body it is Zeb Hutchinson, whose intense

Soldiers among those swept from the busy Lenox have medicine shared with the Woman a Hampshire friend. Rita V. Hancock woman was the American worker who also knew Moses Cunningham's parents. On one of dozens and dozens more people from the square

from in the Congo Republic she has lived

Some know to her own dancing body it is Zeb Hutchinson, whose intense

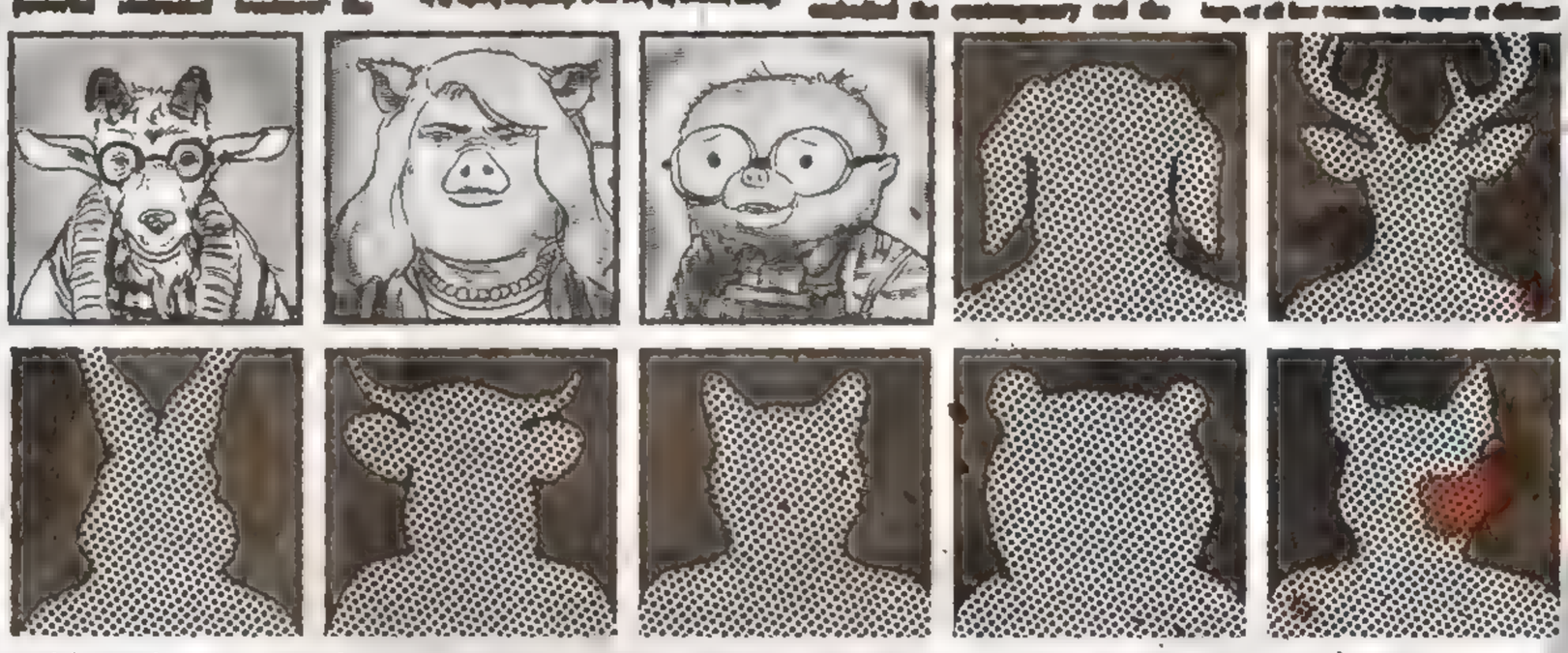
Although the Woman stood in court a widowed ex-political prisoner from the Congo Republic she has lived

POLICE EXPAND SEARCH TO [illegible] BUT CONTINUES TO GROW

MANY VICTIMS STILL AS OF YET UNIDENTIFIED

Although the Woman stood in court a widowed ex-political prisoner from the Congo Republic she has lived

If an choreographer accompanies them home to her one dancing body it is Zeb Hutchinson, whose intense



IL LUPO PIZZERIA
DINE IN • TAKE OUT

As your mind races, you can't help but be impressed with how quickly everything has been turned upside down.

Decades of care...

...blown up in less than a day.

You head for the city before you even realize what you're doing.

You know how easily it can swallow someone up.

You're counting on it.

Wearing masks is easy for you, and you quickly slip in among the millions.

Busy in their own lives.

Chasing fortunes.

Reinventing themselves.

...but not before your ghosts do.

There's a chance they may track you down...

You're not sure how long she's been sitting there.

You haven't seen her since you surprised her at the parking garage near the Port Authority twelve years ago.

CUSTOMERS ONLY

And either everyone is pretending not to notice...

...or you're just going mad.

odern Times

Large Body Count

CRUNKLE

The Modern Times

SPLASH

ANYTHING ELSE I CAN GET FOR YOU, HON?

AGNES

TWENTY FOUR
DINER
You're grateful for the rain.

Mother Nature does her best to hide you from your enemie

But there are too many cops.

And too many ghosts.

You don't remember which on-ramp you've taken or which highway this is...

...and with each passing moment...

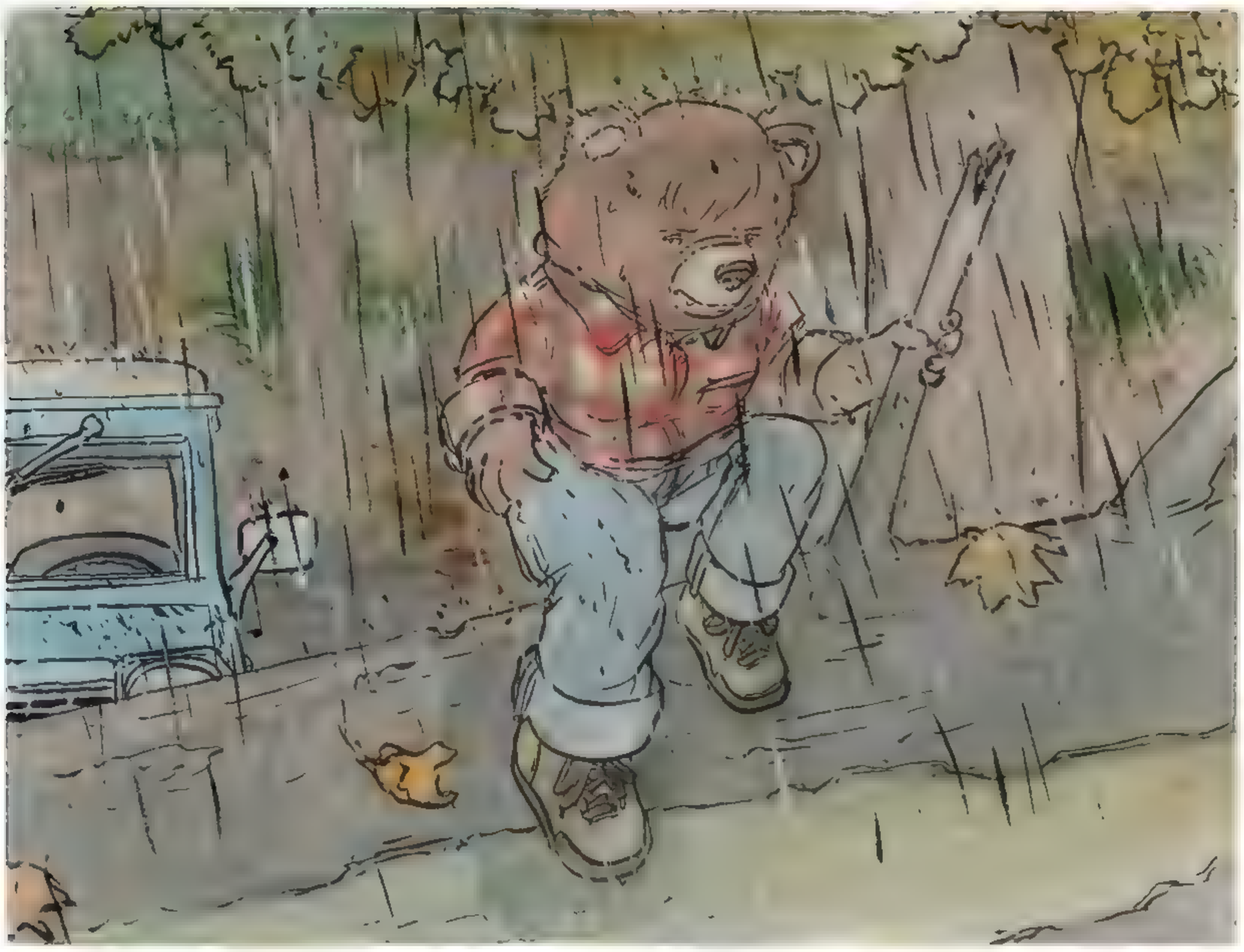
...your world shrinks a little more.

PLOSH

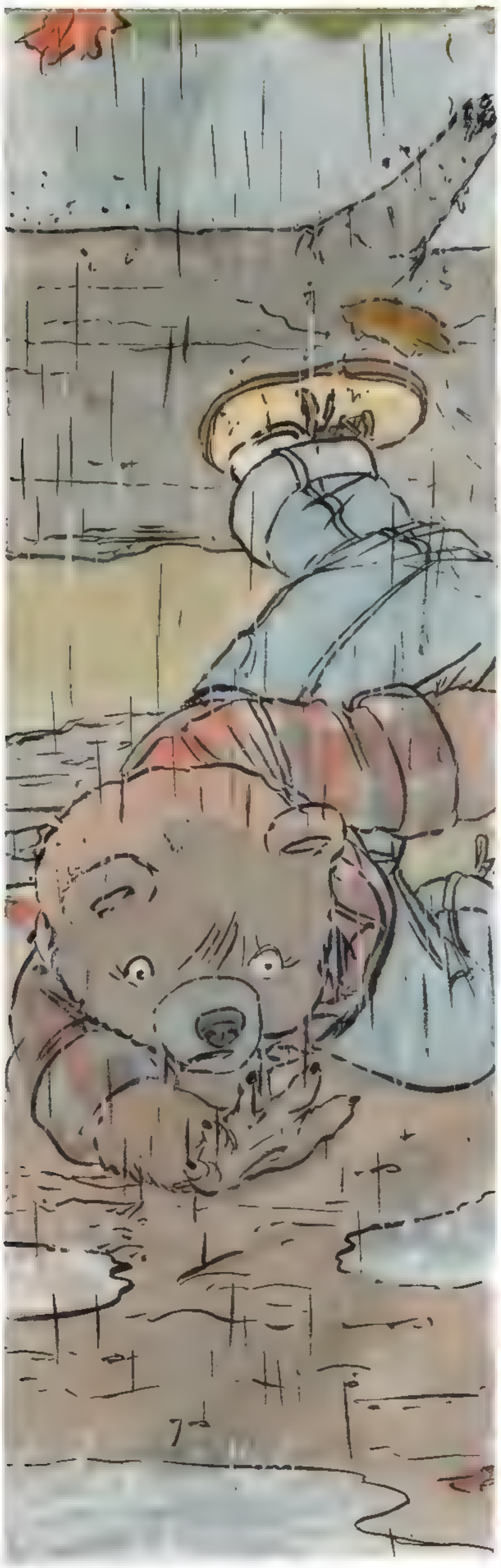
SLRRRRT

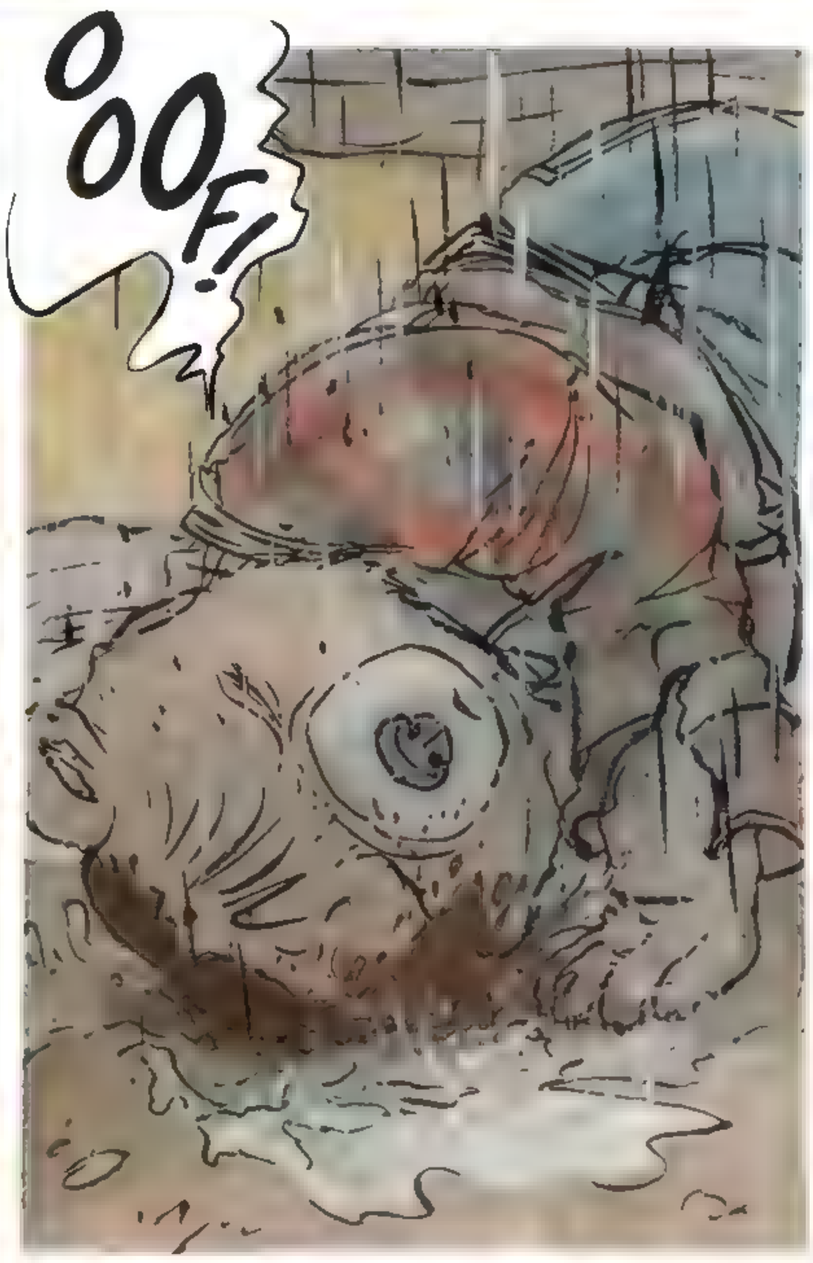
You don't know this forest...

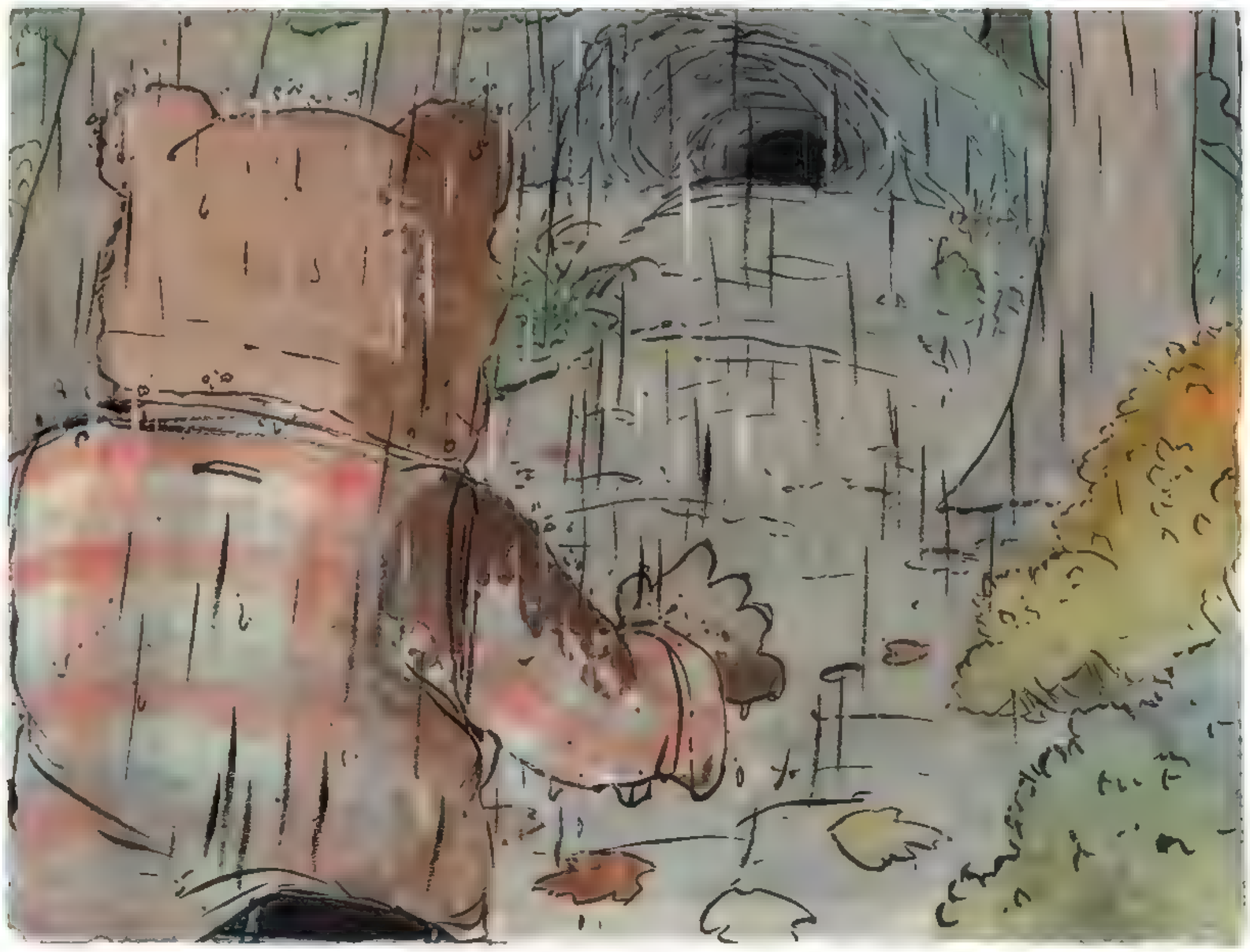
...but you know not to question it.



PACK




OOF!!



You don't want to enter...

...but you need to.

A conversation with yourself that's been long overdue.

A look at what's beneath the surface.

It overwhelms.

You struggle in fear.

But you understand that every last bit of it...

...is a part of you.

It has always been a part of you...

...from the very first beat of your heart.

Uh... Hi.

I THINK WE'VE MET BEFORE.

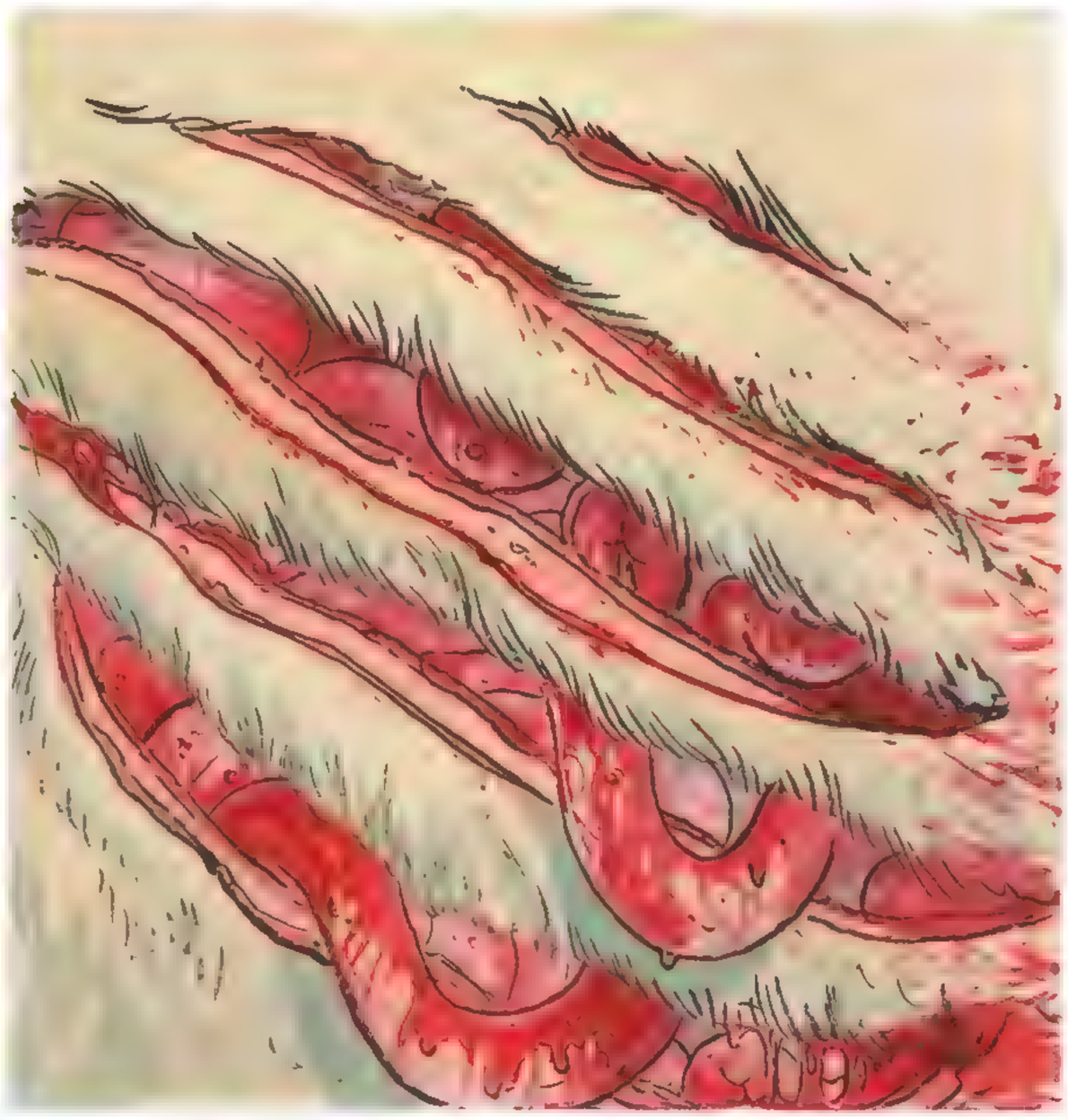
MY NAME'S SAM.

YOU HAVE A LOVELY PLACE HERE.

Oh...

PARDON ME, I DIDN'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT.

SNAP



Yes.

SPLORT

You see the natural order of things.

Where we belong.

Okay...

...I've got some work to do..

ACC OFF ON START

CH-

VRUUUUUUUM

WOODB

IL LUPO PIZZERIA

I don't need much.

Some quick supplies...

"TOOLS"

"SUPPLIES"

...and some retribution.

Woodbrook isn't ruined...

...just a little banged up.

It's nothing that can't be fixed...

...with the right tools.

SALE

-ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ

KANGA WORKGEAR

Blade.

KLIK KLIK

Tape.

CLOTH

Plastic.

NO MESS

It's going to be messy..

...so I'll double up on the plastic.

ARTWORK BY

PATRICK HORVATH

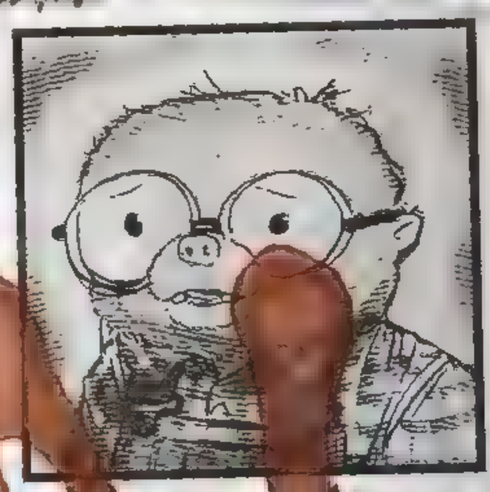
WOODBROOK MURDERER

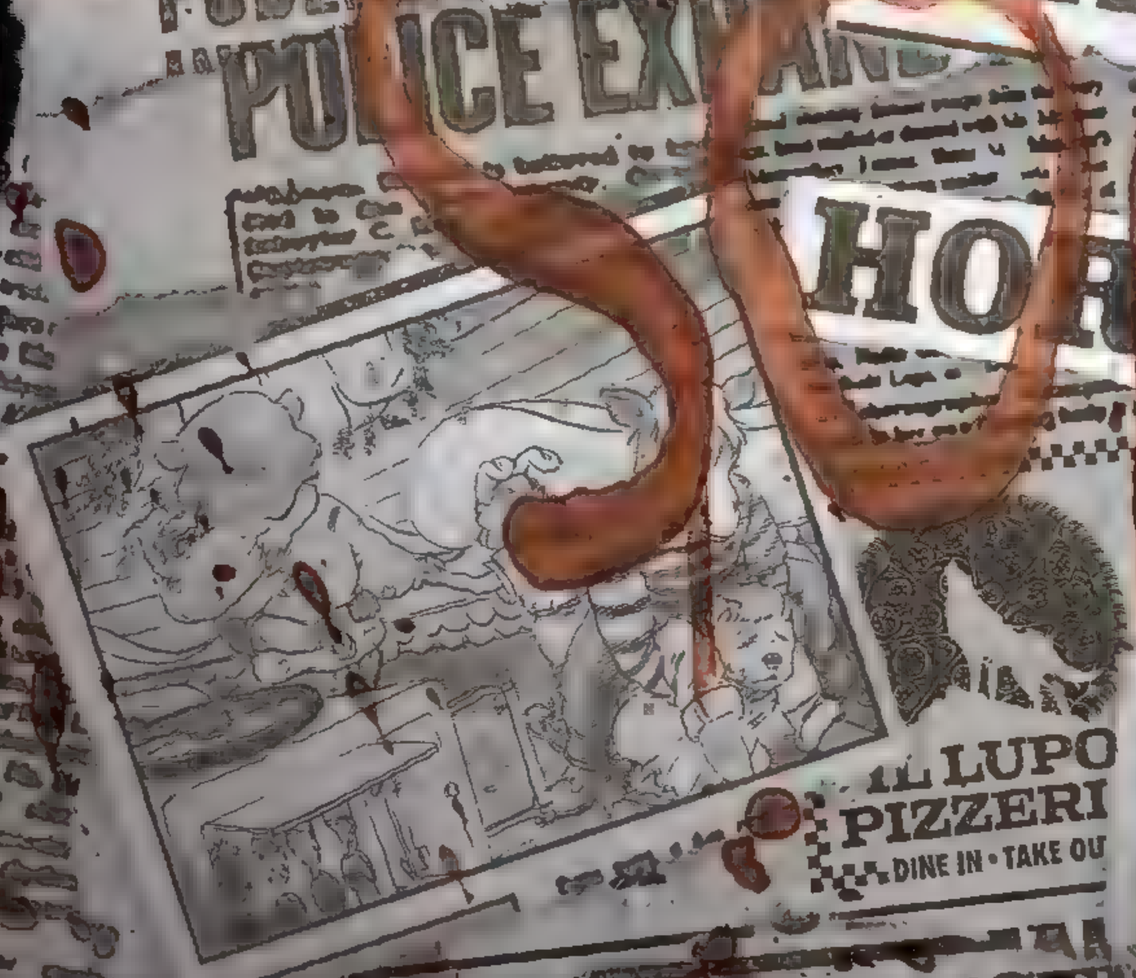
MURDER

STAY INDOORS

EXTREMELY DANGEROUS

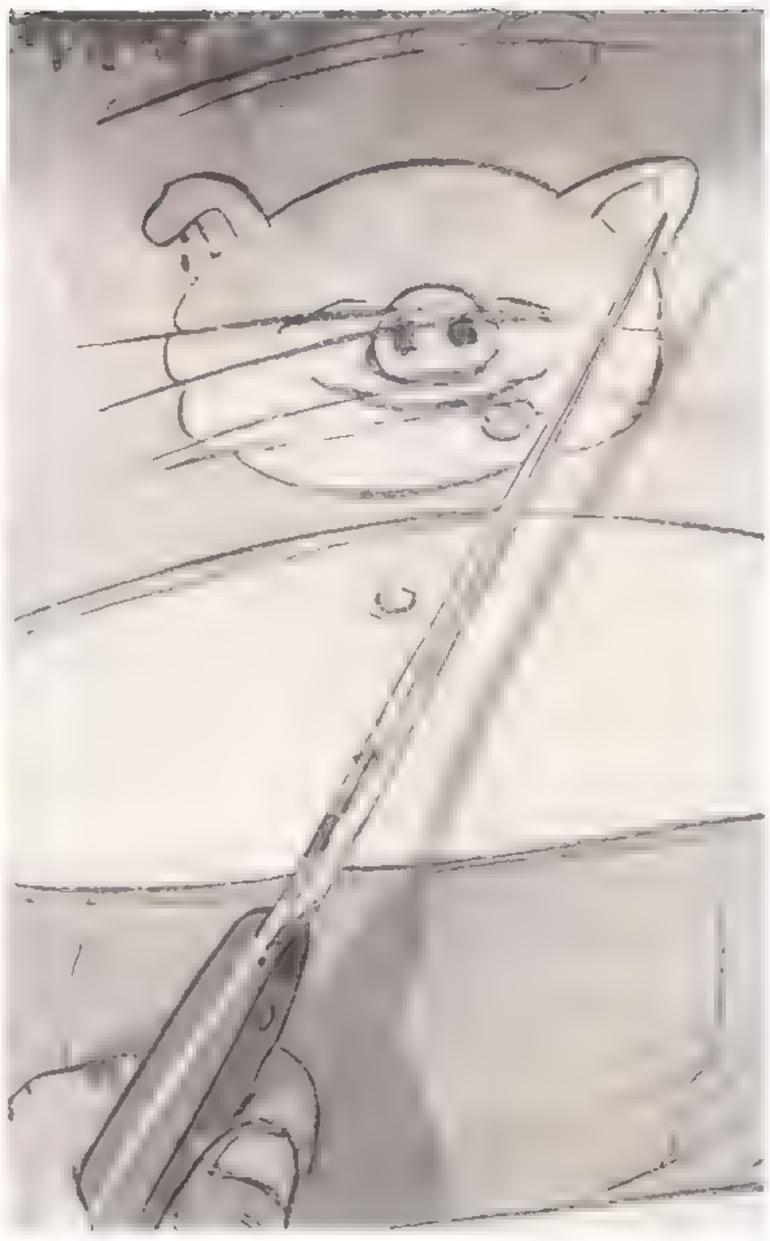
TOWN KILLER





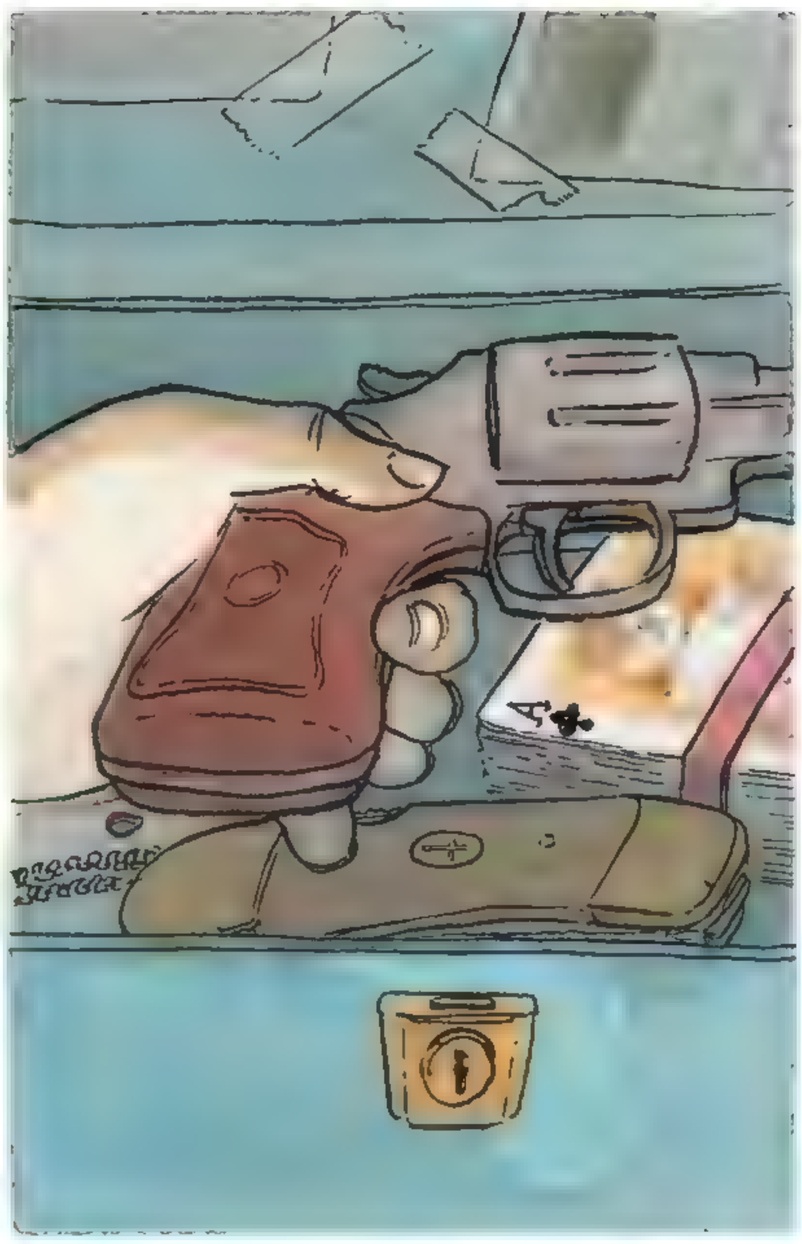
HORRIFIC MURDER

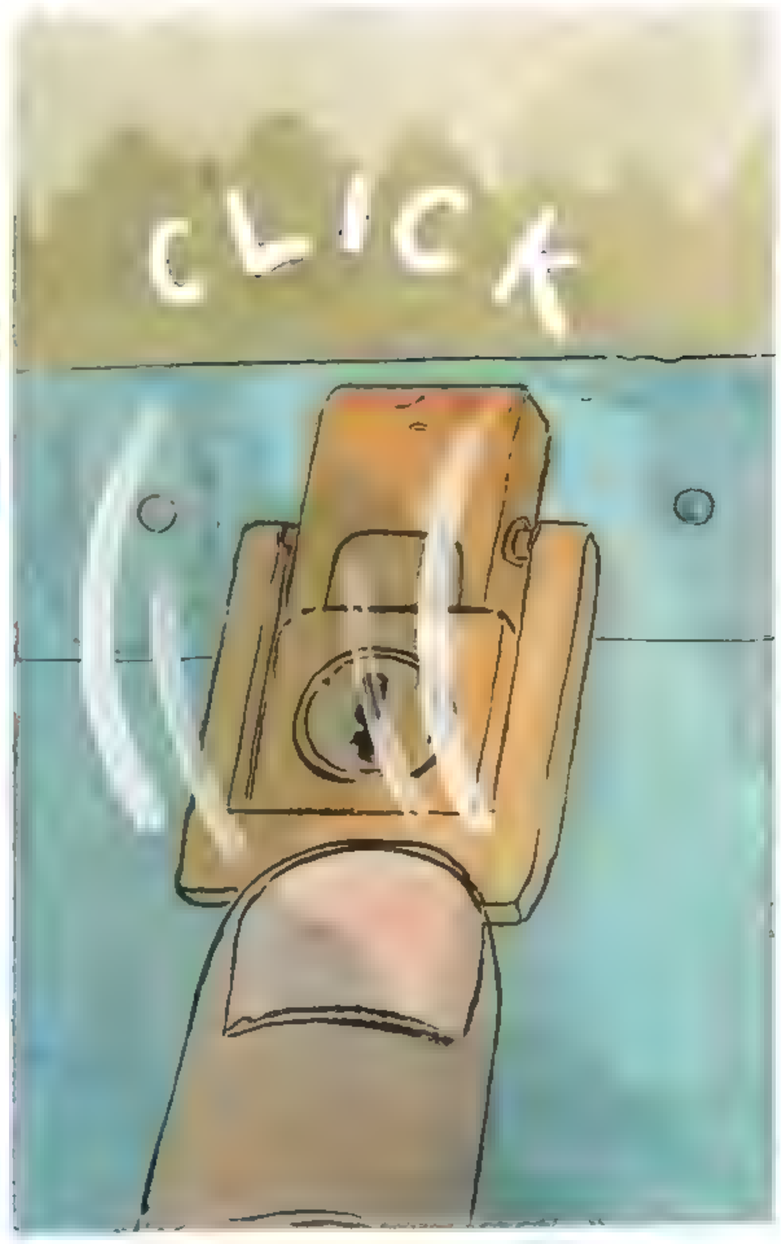
MULTIPLE VICTIMS' AMID LATEST CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIO



FUKC

WHOOSH




CLICK

HEY THERE.

YOU HERE ALL BY YOURSELF?

I'M HERE WITH MY DAD.

Oh, okay...

...I JUST DIDN'T SEE ANYONE AROUND EXCEPT FOR YOU AND ME.

SALLY!

THERE YOU ARE.

YEP, HERE WE ARE.

THANKS FOR LOOKING AFTER SALLY, *uh...*

...it's ***Oliver,*** right?

Nigel...

HONEY, ***PLEASE*** DON'T WANDER OFF LIKE THAT.

YOU GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK.

CLICK

Bang.

★★★
ALL THE NEWS THAT'S KEEN TO BE SEEN
★★★

WOODBROOK WANDERER

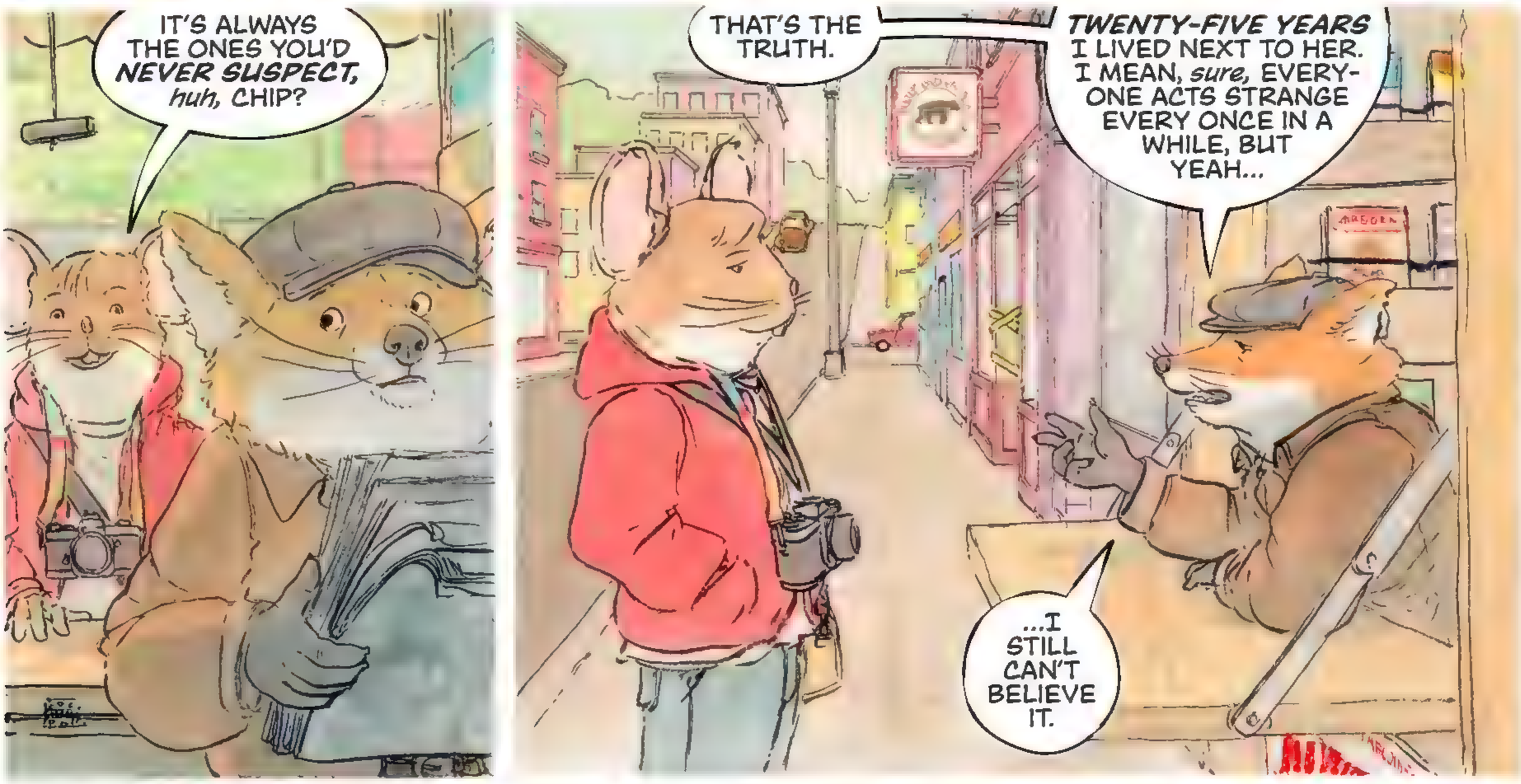
PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS OF WOODBROOK AND SURROUNDING AREAS

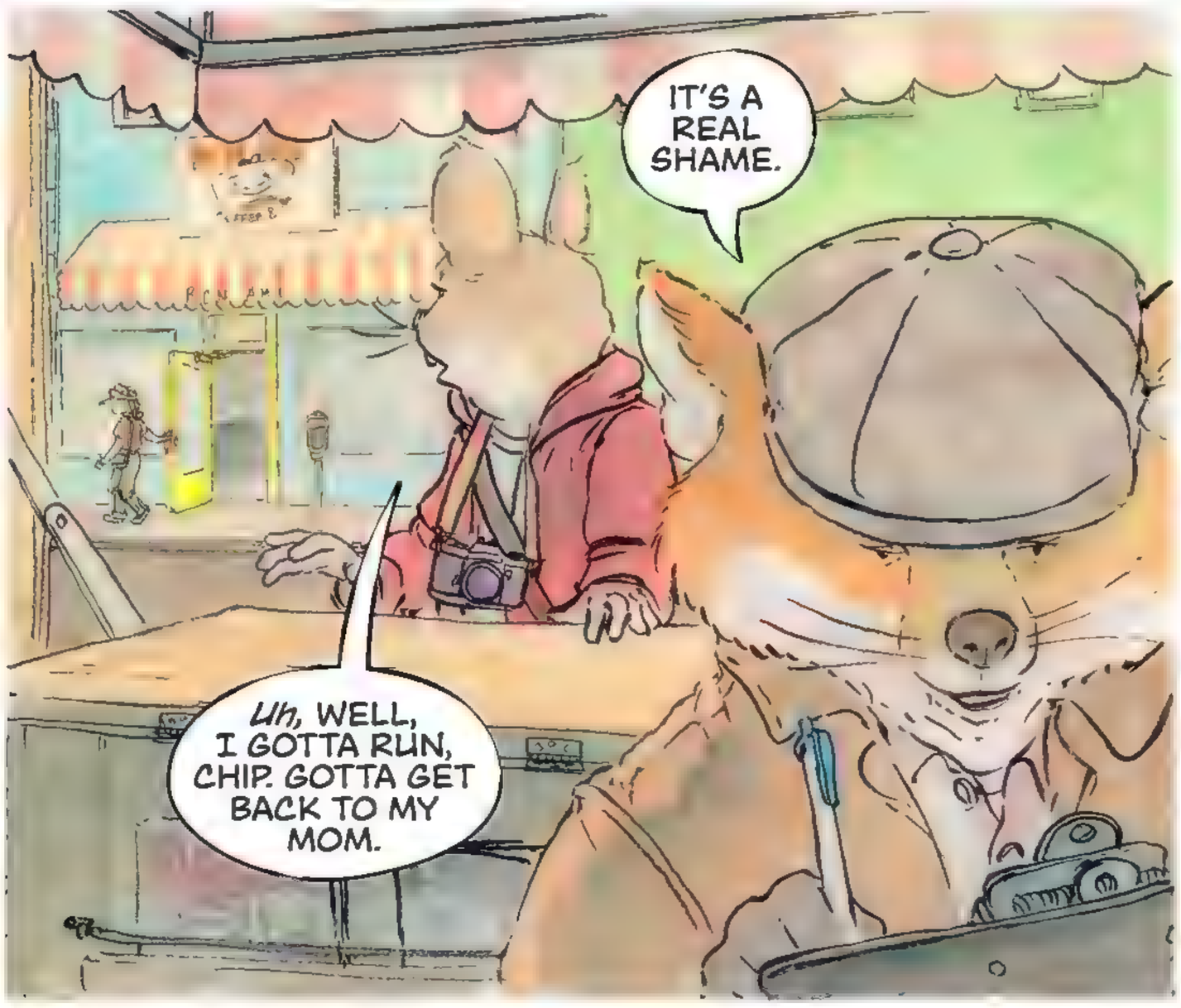
EDITOR IN CHIEF: WALLACE HAMPTON

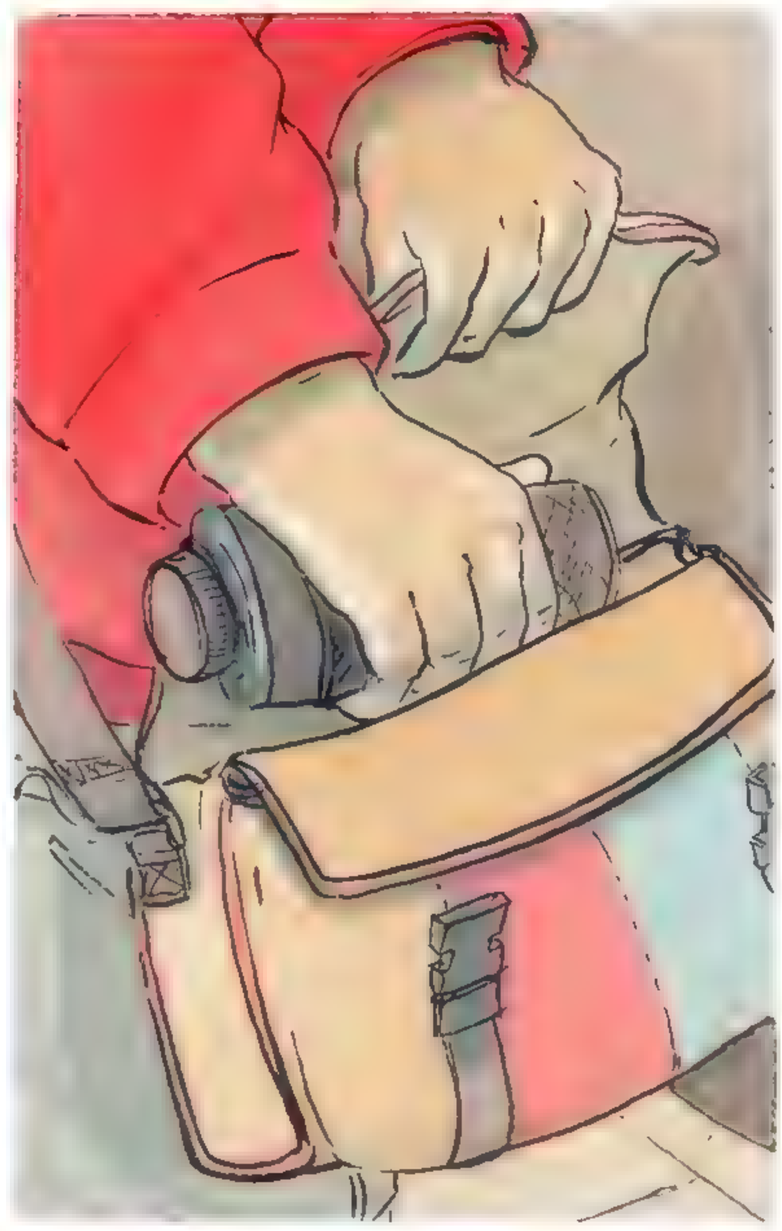
VOLUME SEVEN | MONDAY OCTOBER 9, 1986 | NUMBER 283

SAMANTHA STRONG

COMMUNITY KILLER ON THE RUN


IT'S ALWAYS THE ONES YOU'D *NEVER SUSPECT,* *huh,* CHIP?
THAT'S THE TRUTH.
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS I LIVED NEXT TO HER. I MEAN, *sure,* EVERYONE ACTS STRANGE EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, BUT YEAH...
...I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT.





ch-chak

Hi.

A
4000
2000
1000
500
250
125
60
30
15
8
4
2
1
2
4
8
M
B
WENT
BUY 1
GET 1
FREE
26
CLICK

ATTENTION, SHOPPERS. DIANE PRICE, PLEASE COME TO THE CUSTOMER SERVICE DESK...

...DIANE PRICE TO THE FRONT DESK, PLEASE. YOUR WALLET HAS BEEN FOUND IN THE PARKING LOT.

OH MY GOD, MY WALLET?!

AHHH!

WHOOPS! SORRY!

=Sigh=

NEED A HAND?

Uh...

19¢

Boy, SHE *REALLY* JUST SMACKED INTO YOU AND RAN OFF, *huh?*

Ha, YEAH, I GUESS SHE DID.

I'M SORRY, I KNOW I'VE SEEN YOU IN THE COFFEE SHOP A MILLION TIMES.

YOUR NAME IS...

...IT'S *NIGEL.*

19¢

CLICK

Bang.

WITH YOU ON THE RUN, THIS IS LIKE SHOOTING FISH IN A BARREL.

I KNOW YOU'LL BE BACK, THOUGH. YOU PROBABLY CAN'T HELP IT...

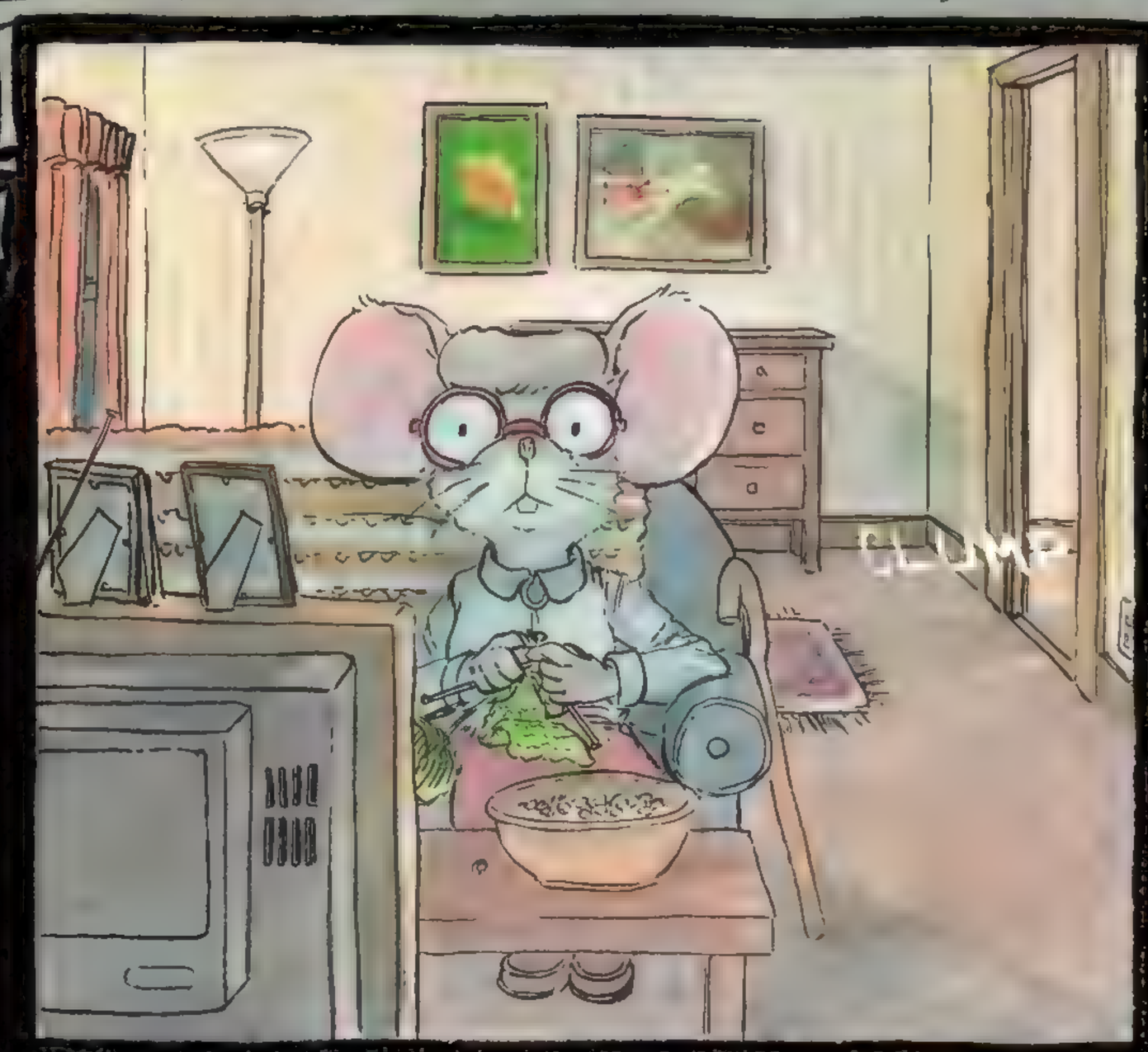
...BUT YOU'RE GONNA *REGRET* IT.

WEEKLY RATES

RENT

#3

218


CLUMP

NIGEL, YOU'RE HOME EARLY TONIGHT. YOU'VE BEEN STAYING OUT *SO LATE,* I DIDN'T THINK--

S-Sam?!
Hey, Lola.
THE WHOLE TOWN'S LOOKING FOR YOU!

THEY'RE AFTER THE *WRONG* PERSON.
IT'S *NIGEL* THEY WANT... HE KILLED THEM ALL.
SEE?! I *KNEW* YOU DIDN'T DO IT!

...and I guess I knew that, too.

I KNOW NIGEL HAS BEEN A BIT *WILD* LATELY, BUT YOU TWO AREN'T SO DIFFERENT, ARE YOU?

YOU KNOW ABOUT ME, TOO?

FOR HOW LONG?

FOR A WHILE NOW...

...Oh, Sam. IF YOU DON'T HAVE FRIENDS AND FAMILY, WHAT ELSE IS THERE?

ZZZZIP

ISN'T THERE SOME--

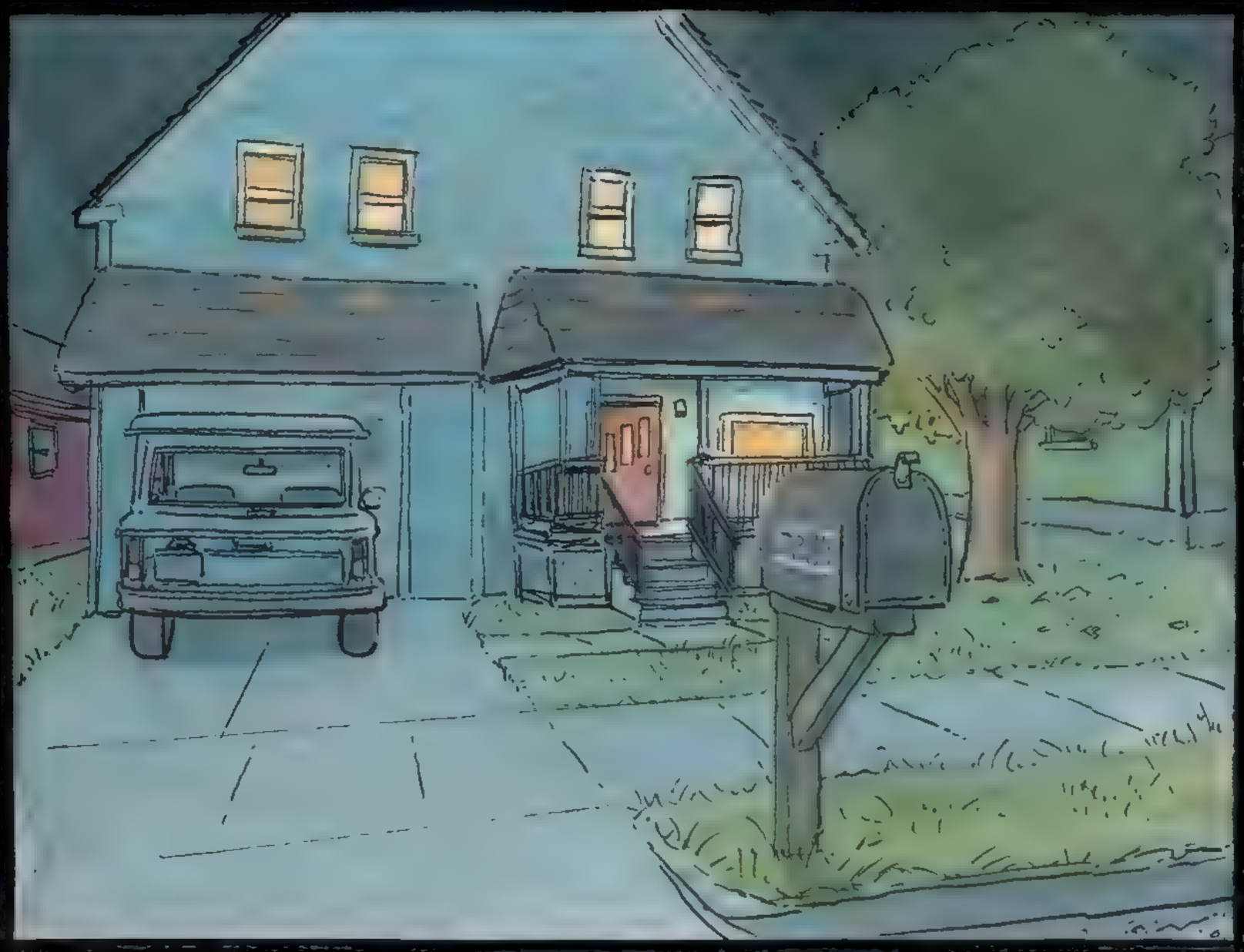
--ISN'T THERE A WAY YOU TWO COULD WORK THIS OUT?

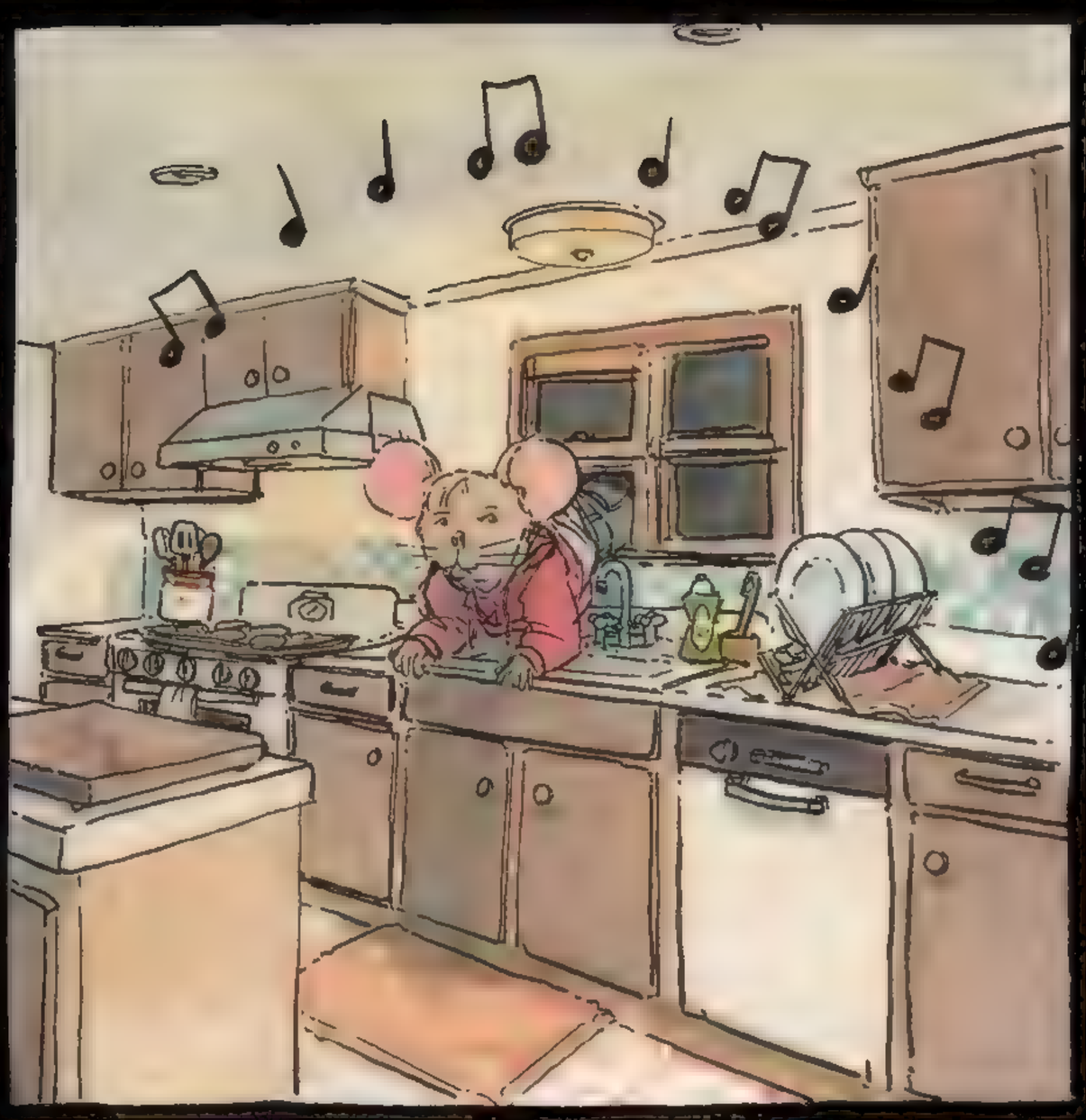
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I THINK THERE IS, BUT WE SHOULD TALK THIS OVER AT MY PLACE.

SHOULD WE LEAVE HIM A NOTE, OR--

WE'LL TAKE MY TRUCK. I HAVE A HUNCH THAT ONCE I PARK IT OUT FRONT, HE'LL SHOW UP IN NO TIME.

--Samantha, why are you wearing *goggles?*





YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED AWAY WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE, YA BIG DUMMY--

--No.

Muh--
M-Muh--

MOM!

THUMP

HEY, NIGEL. I JUST INJECTED YOU WITH *CURARE.*

IT'S BLOCKING YOUR NEUROMUSCULAR TRANSMISSIONS, WHICH IS WHY YOU CAN'T MOVE ANYMORE.

FWUMP

I USED TO USE *BOTULINUM,* BUT I LIKE CURARE BETTER.

YOU CAN GROW THE PLANT YOURSELF IF YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

AS YOU CAN PROBABLY FEEL AND SMELL BY NOW, YOUR BOWELS ARE RELEASING.

SORT OF EMBARRASSING, BUT IT'S OKAY. YOU WON'T CARE ABOUT THAT FOR MUCH LONGER.

PRETTY SOON, SHERIFF PATTERSON IS GOING TO BE HERE WITH HIS DEPUTIES.

I'LL EXPLAIN HOW I WAS HIDING UNTIL I COULD PROVE MY INNOCENCE.

YOUR MOM AGREED TO MEET ME WHEN WE REALIZED THAT *YOU* WERE THE KILLER.

YOUR DARKROOM? YOUR LITTLE LOCKBOX?

WE WERE ABOUT TO CONTACT THE SHERIFF WHEN YOU BROKE IN, HOLDING US AT GUN-POINT.

YOU STABBED YOUR MOTHER REPEATEDLY FOR BETRAYING YOU, AND YOU WOUNDED ME WHEN I TRIED TO STOP YOU.

YOU RECOGNIZE THE KNIFE?

I GOTTA SAY, I'M PRETTY DISAPPOINTED.

ONLY *IDIOTS* WHO DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING USE A GUN.

I'LL TELL THE SHERIFF WE WRESTLED FOR IT...

...AND AS WE STRUGGLED, THE GUN WENT OFF, TAKING MOST OF YOUR *HEAD* WITH IT.

IT'LL BE A BIG MESS, BUT THAT'S OKAY.

I'LL CLEAN UP WHATEVER'S LEFT OF YOU AND MOVE ON WITH MY LIFE.

YOU'RE NOT A KILLER...

...YOU'RE JUST A DUMB KID WHO DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS DOING.

YOU KNOW? YOUR MOM AND I MIGHT GO BACK 40 YEARS...

...BUT SHE WAS JUST SOMEONE I KNEW.

I LIKED HER WELL ENOUGH, BUT THAT WAS ABOUT IT.

I DON'T PRETEND TO KNOW WHAT LOVE IS...

...YOUR MOTHER DID, THOUGH.

SHE KNEW ALL ABOUT WHAT YOU'D BEEN DOING AND STILL WENT ON LOVING YOU. DID YOU KNOW SHE KNEW?

THAT'S *SO* SPECIAL...

HOW COULD YOU *KILL* HER, NIGEL?

CLICK

THE ONLY PERSON IN THIS WHOLE WORLD WHO LOVED YOU.

HOW COULD YOU *DO* THAT TO HER?

Oh, well.

"AND SUDDENLY A SMALL TOWN'S *NIGHTMARE* IS *OVER.*

"SHOCKING REVELATIONS ARE OUT THIS MORNING EXONERATING PREVIOUS SUSPECT SAMANTHA STRONG AND CONFIRMING THE SON OF HER LONGTIME FRIEND AS THE *NEW* SUSPECT IN A STRING OF MURDERS THAT HAVE ROCKED WOODBROOK.

2

3

"FRAMING SAMANTHA FOR THE MURDERS, NIGEL ALBRIGHT SURPRISED THE TWO WOMEN LAST NIGHT IN STRONG'S HOME IN AN ATTEMPT TO SILENCE THEM BEFORE THEY COULD INFORM AUTHORITIES OF THEIR SUSPICIONS, ACCORDING TO AN EARLY STATEMENT FROM THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT.

"THE CONFRONTATION ENDED *TRAGICALLY,* WITH THE SUSPECT STABBING HIS MOTHER TO DEATH BEFORE BEING MORTALLY WOUNDED IN A STRUGGLE WITH MS. STRONG OVER A FIREARM."

A DRAMATIC CONCLUSION TO A VERY DARK TIME FOR THIS COMMUNITY...

...ONE THAT'S LEFT THIS TOWN REELING BUT READY TO MOVE ON AND HEAL.

IN WOODBROOK, I'M REBECCA LEE FOR ACTION EIGHT NEWS.

And just like that, the town came back to life.

The cold grip of fear thawing out...

...allowing folks to rejoin the world as they remembered it before it turned so strange.

Maybe there's a hint of something bad that remains, but it's not much...

...like the fuzzy details of a nightmare that fade away in the morning.

And maybe, little by little...

...some hope can grow for something new.

HI, SAM.

I MADE YOU THIS. I JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT I *NEVER* BELIEVED YOU KILLED CHARLIE, SAM.

Oh, PAULINE, THANK YOU. IS THIS YOUR MOLEZITI CASSEROLE?

CHARLIE ALWAYS SAID YOU WOULD SNEAK BITES OF HIS WHENEVER HE BROUGHT LEFTOVERS TO WORK FOR LUNCH.

YOU KNOW, I FOUND A LITTLE SOMETHING HERE THAT I THINK BELONGS TO YOU.

OH!

HIS ***WEDDING RING!*** OUR LITTLE FINGERS ARE TOO STUBBY. WE WORE THEM ON CHAINS SO THEY'D BE CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS.

I MISS HIM ***SO MUCH,*** SAM!

I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO THIS! THE KIDS ARE SO ***YOUNG.***

I'M ALWAYS HERE WHENEVER YOU NEED ME.

=Sniff=

I'M SORRY. I--

--I'M ***GLAD*** YOU KILLED NIGEL, SAM.

SAMANTHA STRONG, YOU GOT A MINUTE TO TALK?

SO, ah... IT'S BEEN A CRAZY COUPLE OF WEEKS...

...and, ah... ***well...***

...I JUST WANTED TO APOLOGIZE AND SAY I'M SORRY FOR THINKING YOU WERE THE KILLER AND ALL THAT.

I MEAN, IT'S SO FUNNY TO HEAR MYSELF EVEN NOW. I CAN'T BELIEVE WE *EVER* THOUGHT YOU'D HURT *ANYBODY* ON PURPOSE.

Oh, THAT'S OKAY, SHERIFF. I KNOW YOU'RE ONLY DOING THE BEST YOU CAN. THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.

I SHOULD PROBABLY CLOSE UP SHOP NOW.

AND, uh, WELL, THAT'S THE THING. THIS BEING AN ELECTION YEAR FOR ME AND ALL... THE PEOPLE OF WOODBROOK REALLY DO LOOK UP TO YOU.

I'D REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR ENDORSEMENT, IF, ah, YOU THOUGHT THAT'D BE SOMETHING YOU'D CONSIDER.

I'LL THINK IT OVER, SHERIFF.

Woodbrook is a special place.

CLACK

It's my home, and it's good to be back.

FLIP

Now I think it's time for this bear to take it easy..

...maybe hibernate for a bit while things calm down.

Sweet dreams.

THE END.

ARTWORK BY

PATRICK HORVATH

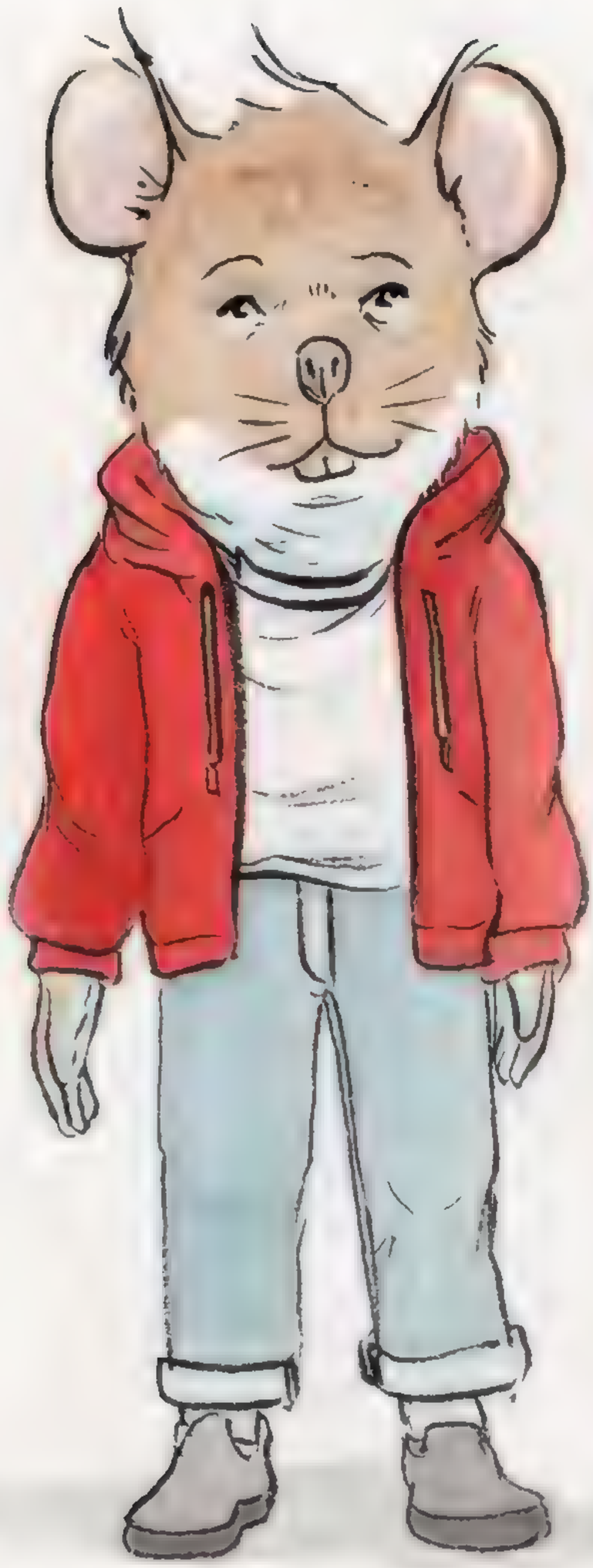
VARIANT COVER GALLERY

ARTWORK BY
RILEY ROSSMO

Ace Peacock
FINE FASHIONS
25% OFF ALL WEEK

WorkWear

CHARACTER SKETCHES BY PATRICK HORVATH



Patrick Horvath is a cartoonist and filmmaker who lives with his family in Los Angeles. *Beneath the Trees Where Nobody Sees* is his first published series as writer and artist—hopefully the first of many.

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART STOPS.

"Finally, murder and forensics are adorable!"
–Patton Oswalt

"Nothing can prepare you for this. If you love *The Wind in the Willows* but hate your inner child... *Beneath the Trees Where Nobody Sees* is for you."
–Tony Fleecs *(Stray Dogs)*

Don't. Murder. The locals. This is adorable brown bear and small-town serial killer Samantha Strong's cardinal rule. After all, there's a sea of potential victims in the big city just beyond the forest, and when you've worked as hard as Sam to build a cozy life and a thriving business in a community like Woodbrook–surrounded by friendly fellow animal folk and the aroma of cedar trees and fresh apple pies–the last thing you want to do is disturb the peace.

So you can imagine Sam's outrage when one of Woodbrook's own meets a grisly, mysterious demise...and you wouldn't blame her for doing anything it takes to hunt down her rival before the body count rises and Sheriff Patterson starts (literally) barking up the wrong tree.

Breakout writer-artist **Patrick Horvath** presents his twisted hit murder mystery *Beneath the Trees Where Nobody Sees*, collected in full for the first time!

IDW

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"